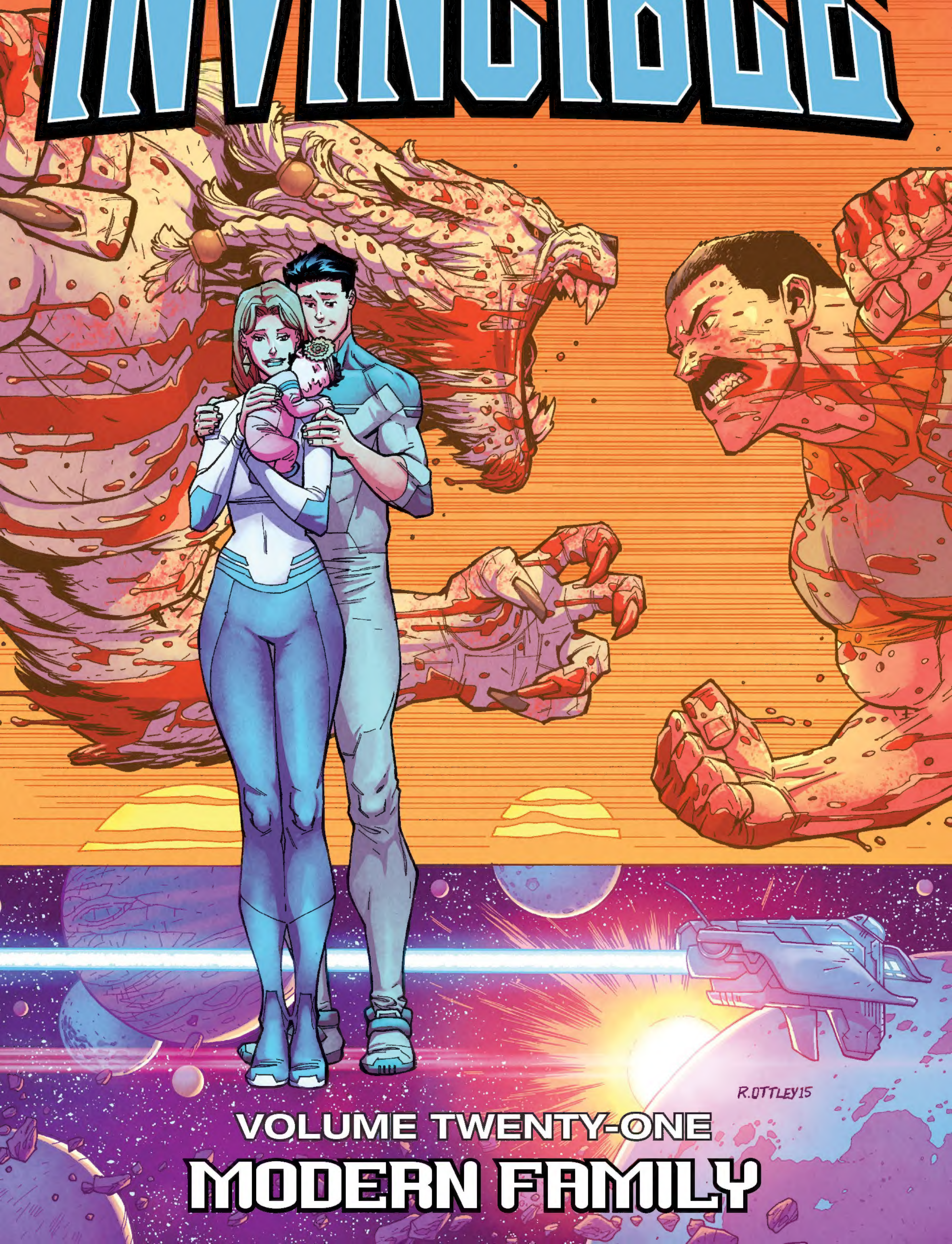


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VOLUME TWENTY-ONE
MODERN FAMILY



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chapter 5, chapter 6, pgs 4-19]

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chapter 6, pgs 1-3, 20]

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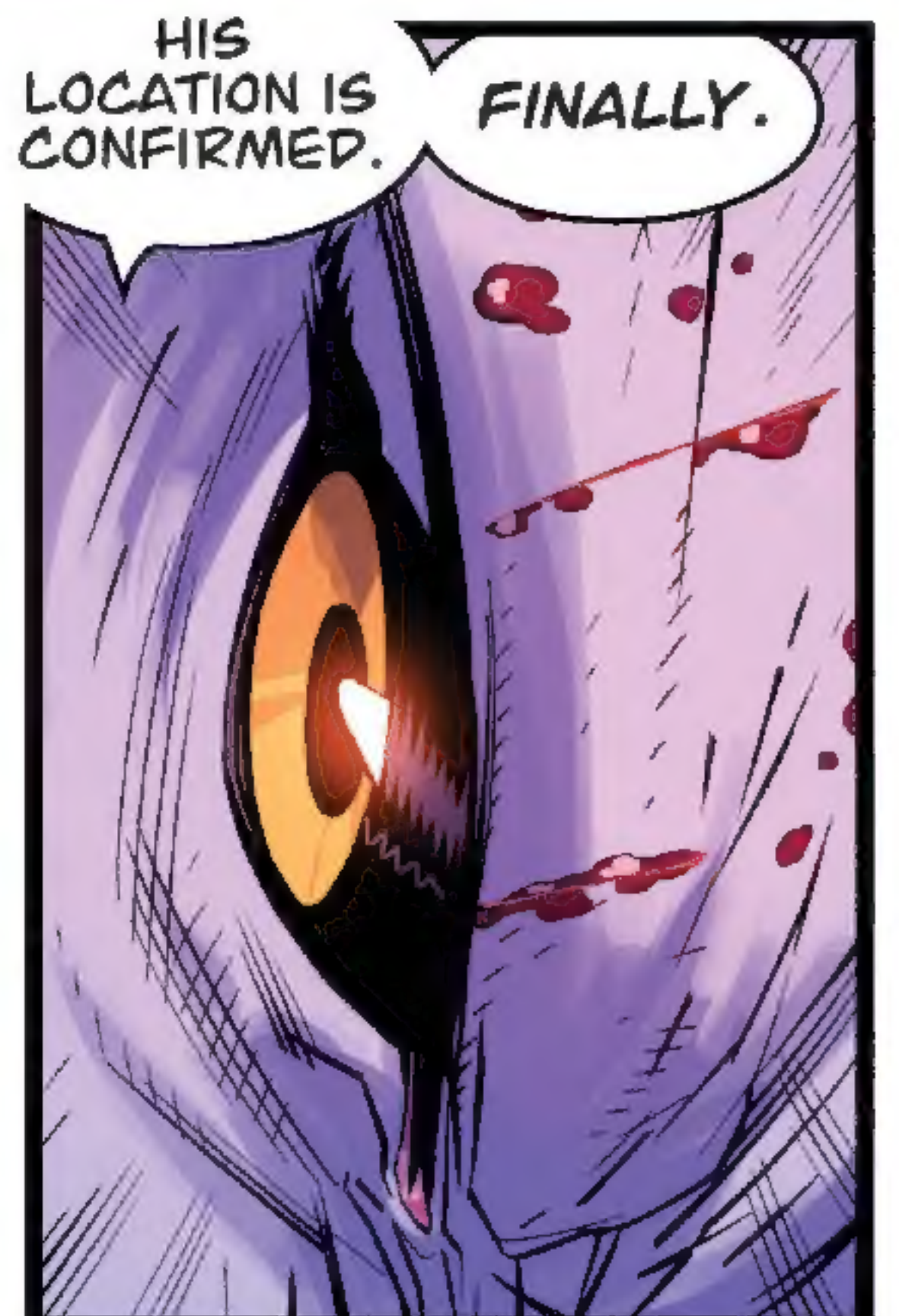
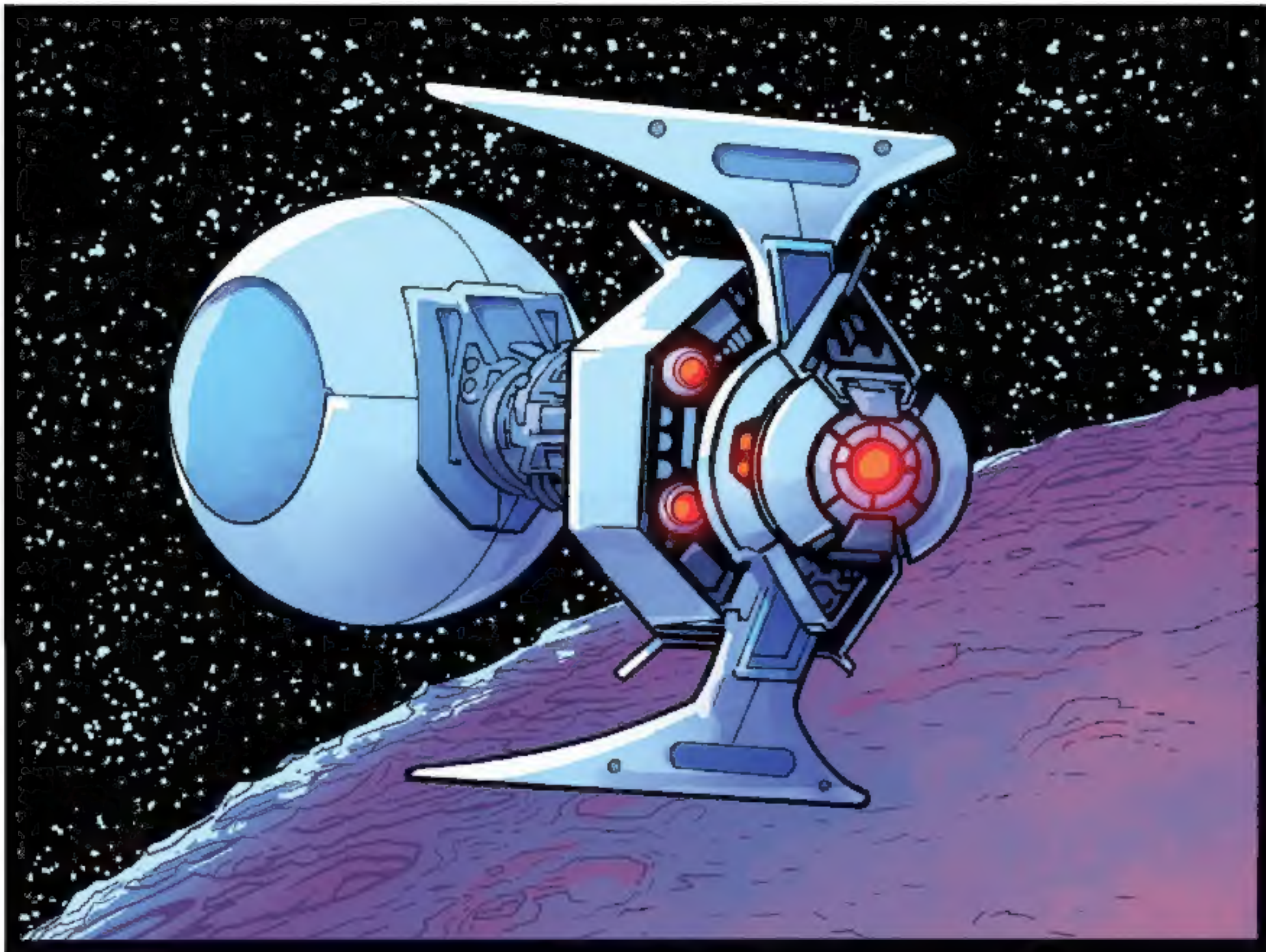
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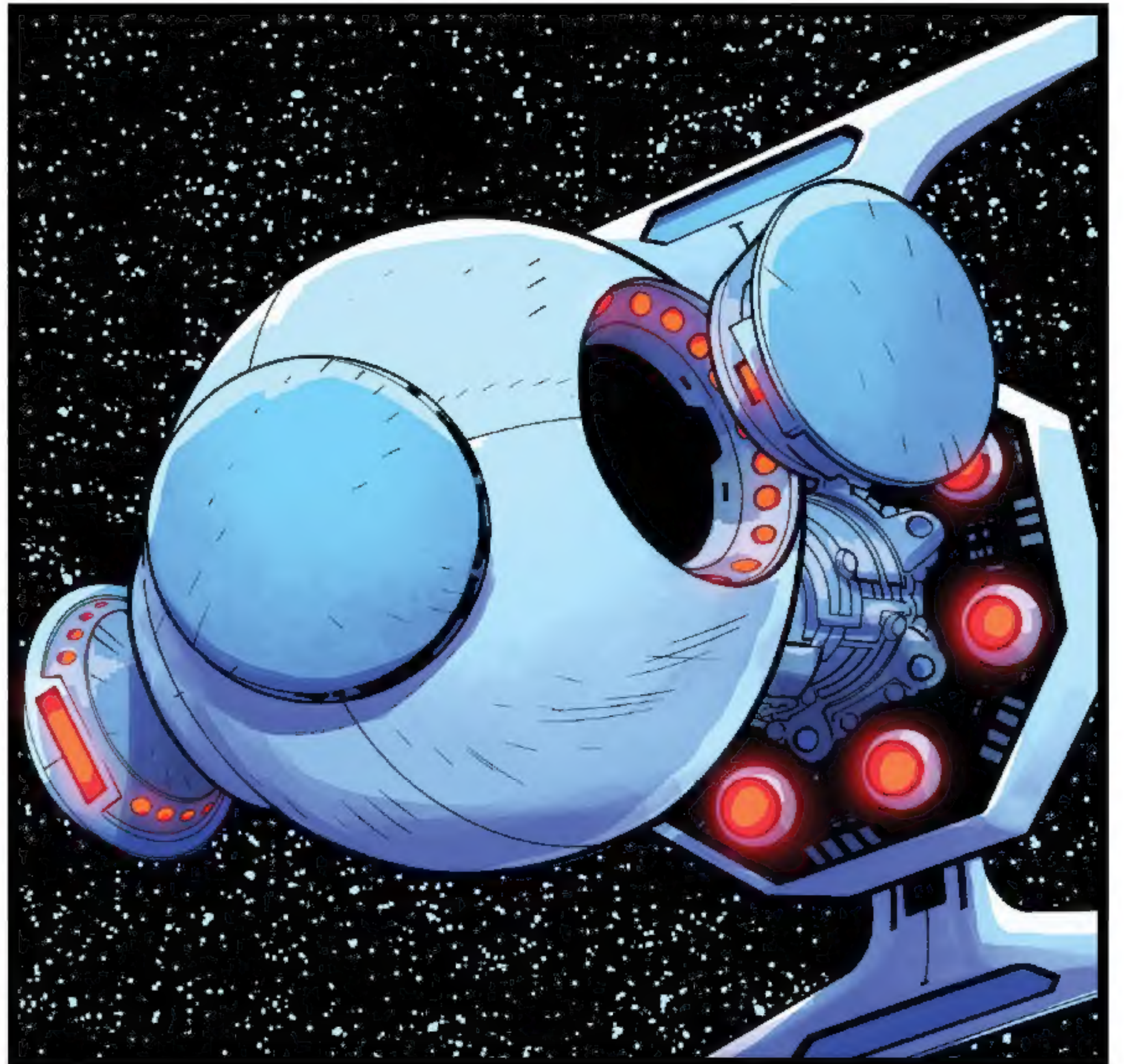






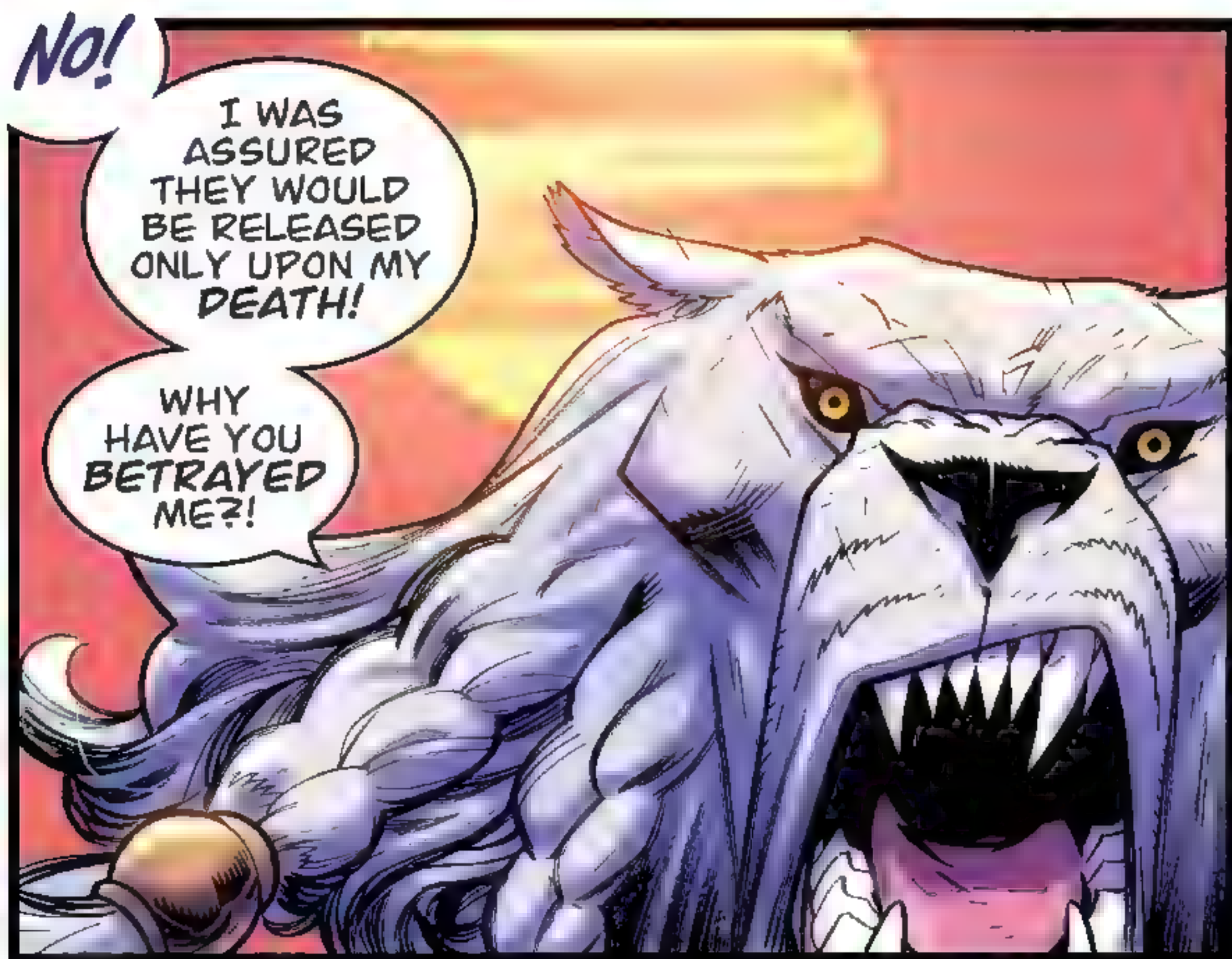
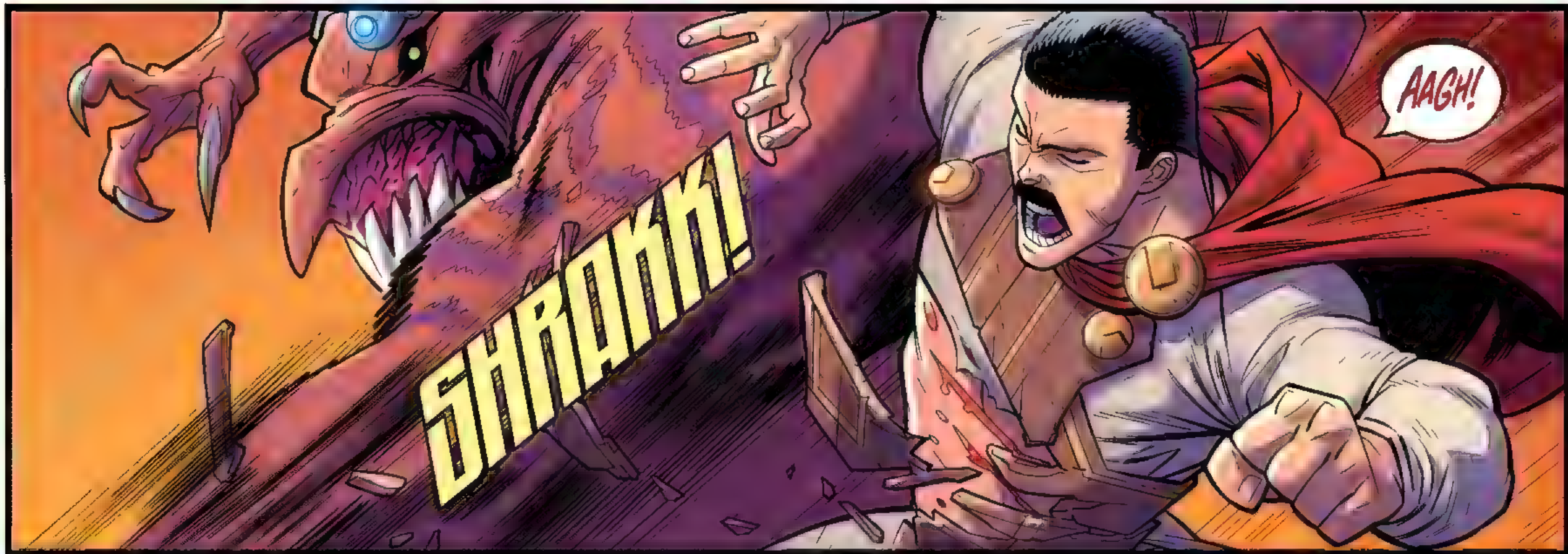
I HAVE
DEFEATED
YOU
BEFORE.

EASILY,
AS I
RECALL.





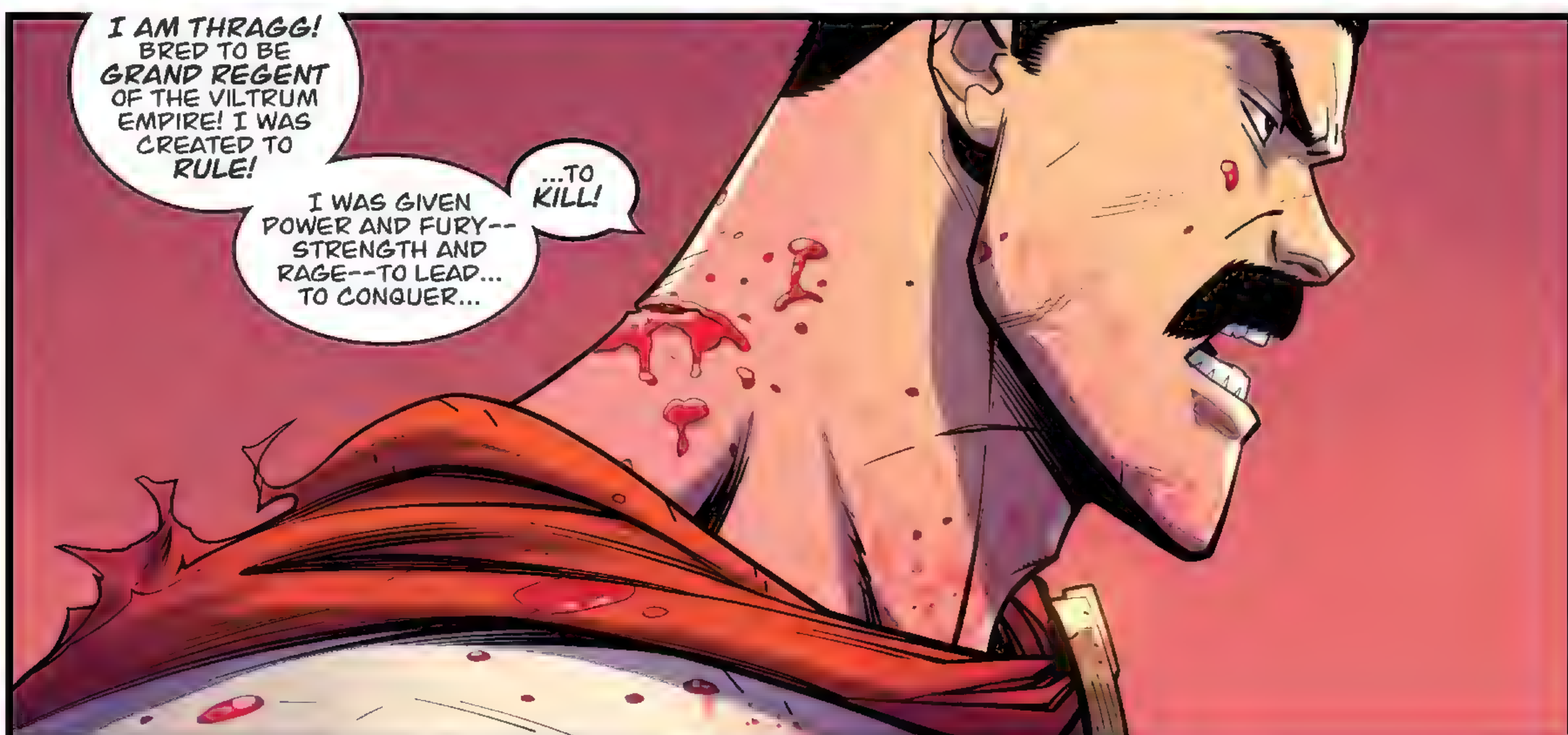
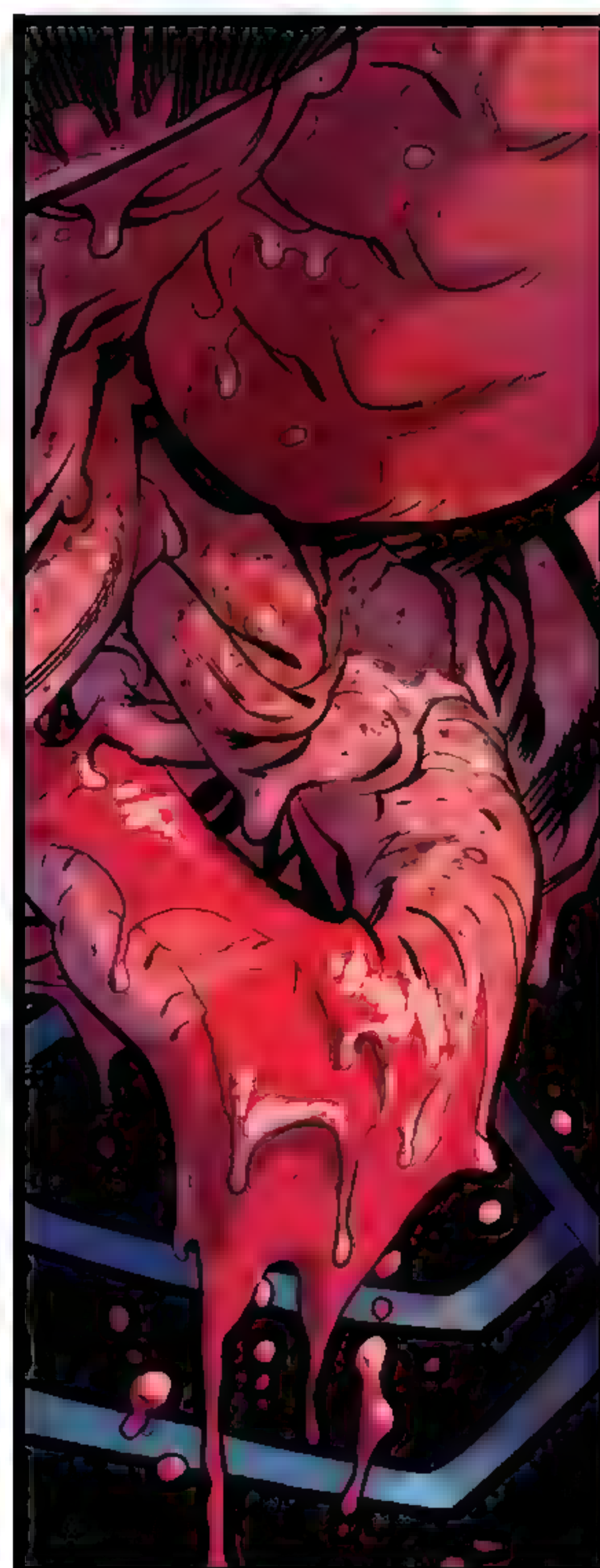
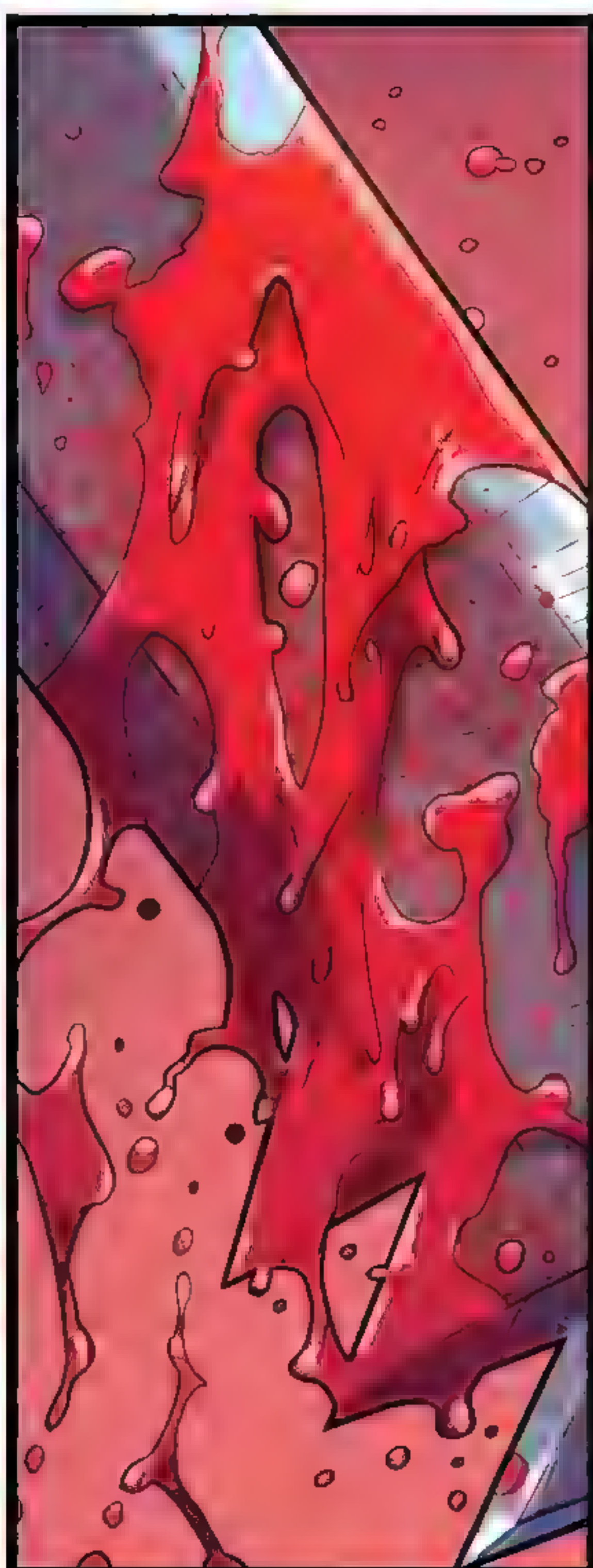
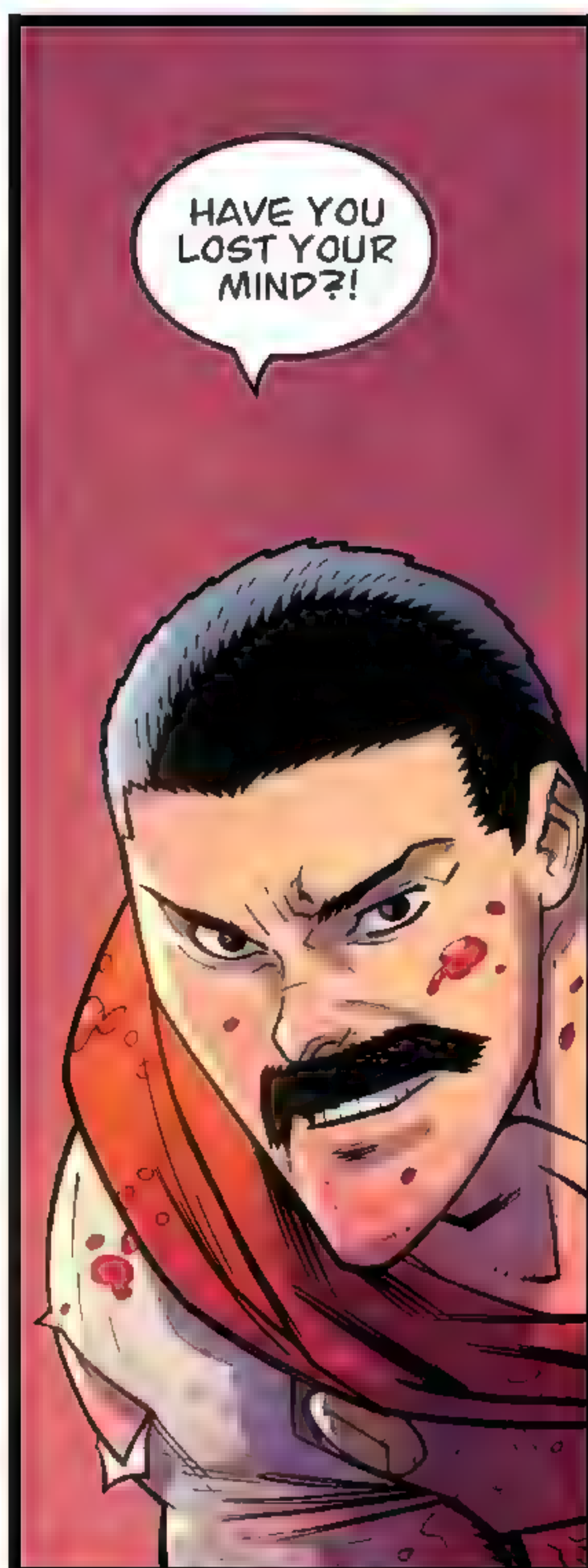
RAGNARS?
WELL
PLAYED.

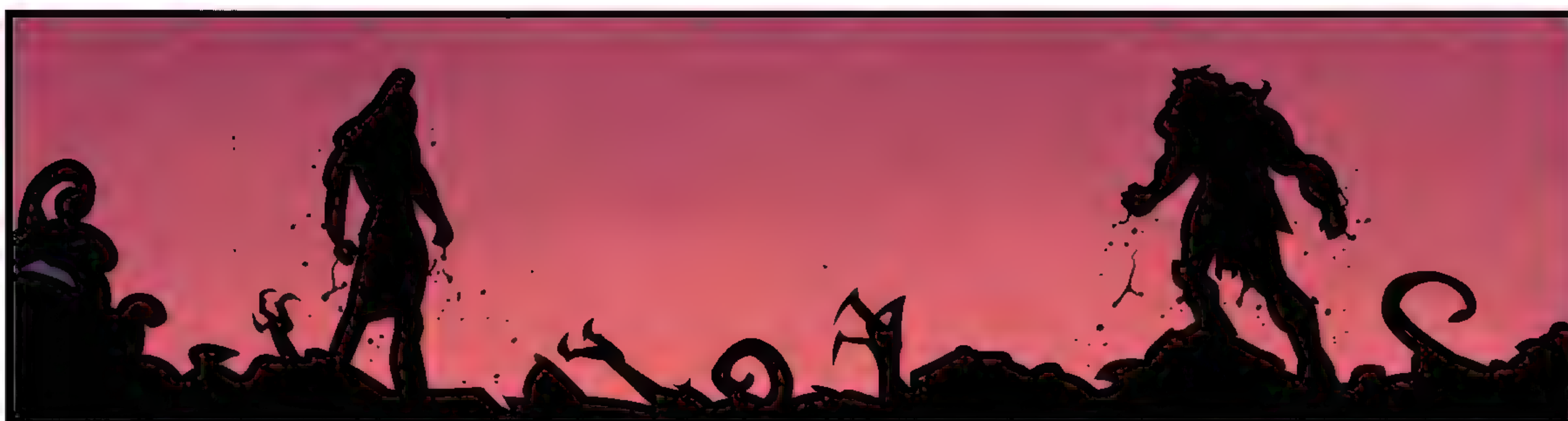
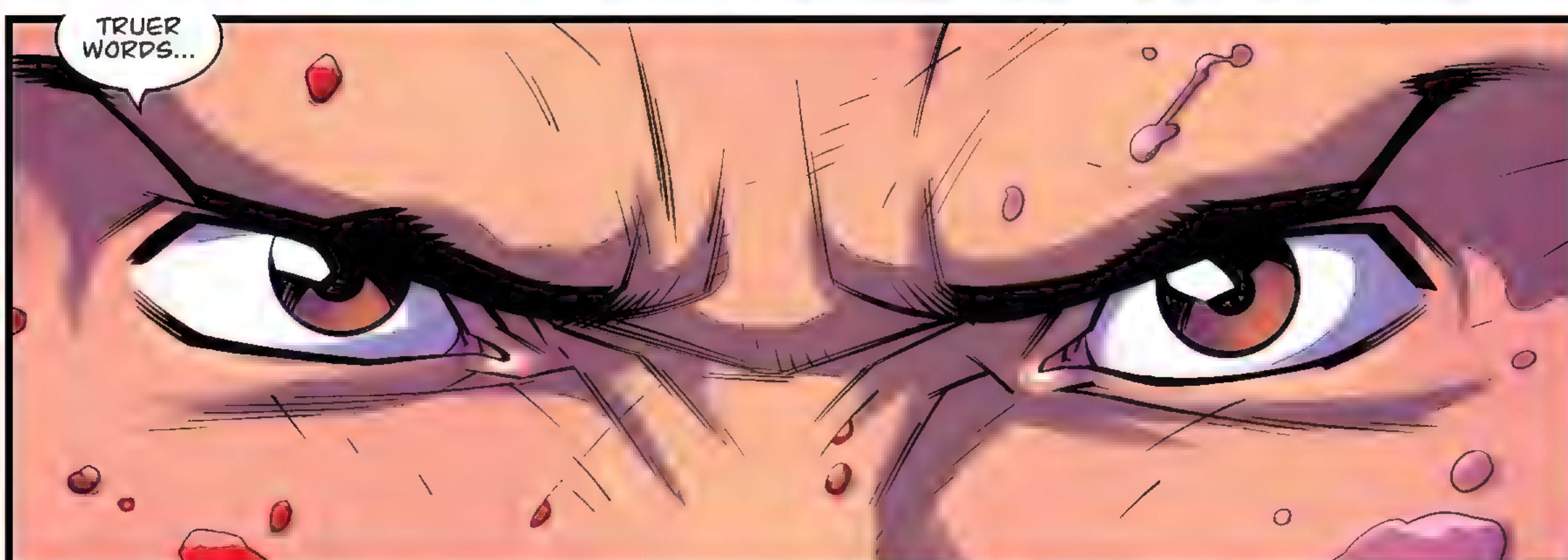




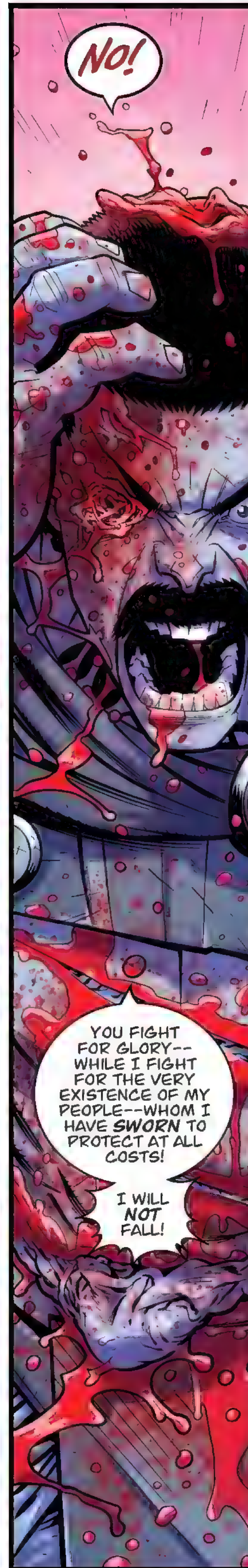
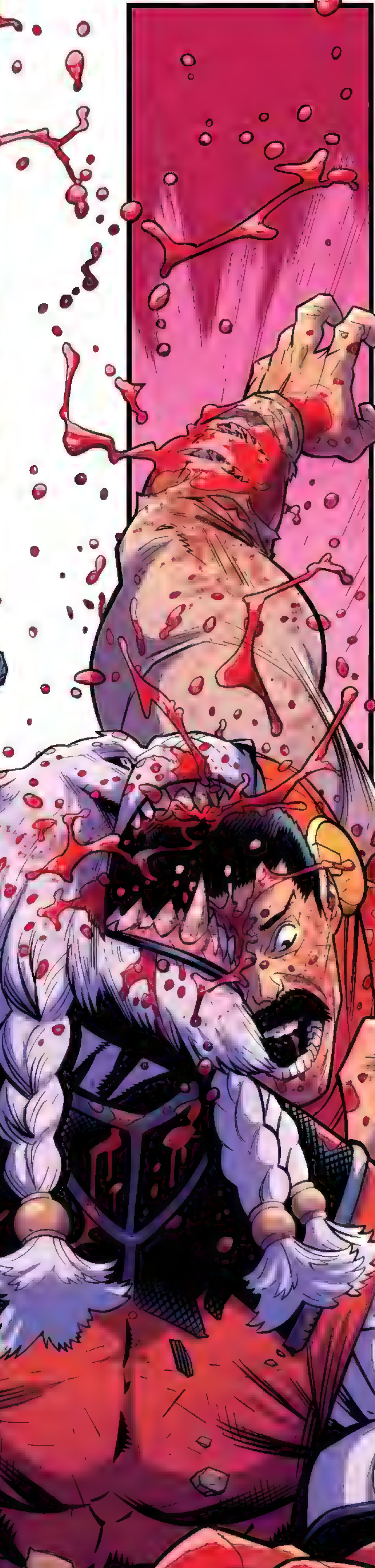
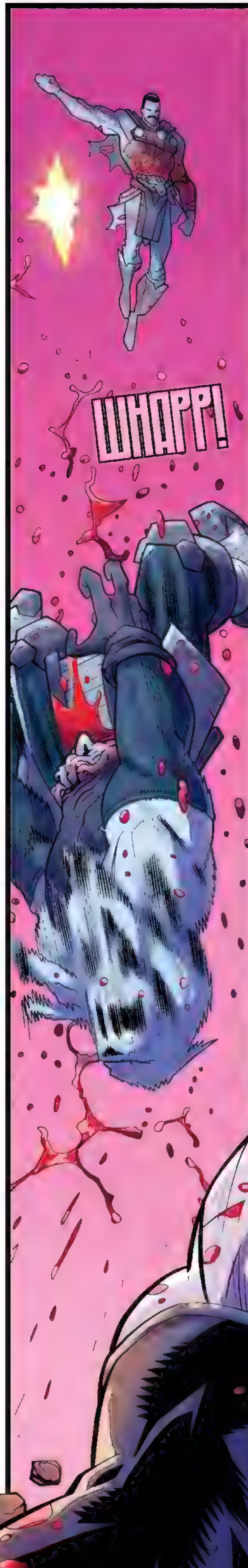












YOU FIGHT FOR GLORY-- WHILE I FIGHT FOR THE VERY EXISTENCE OF MY PEOPLE--WHOM I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT AT ALL COSTS!

I WILL NOT FALL!



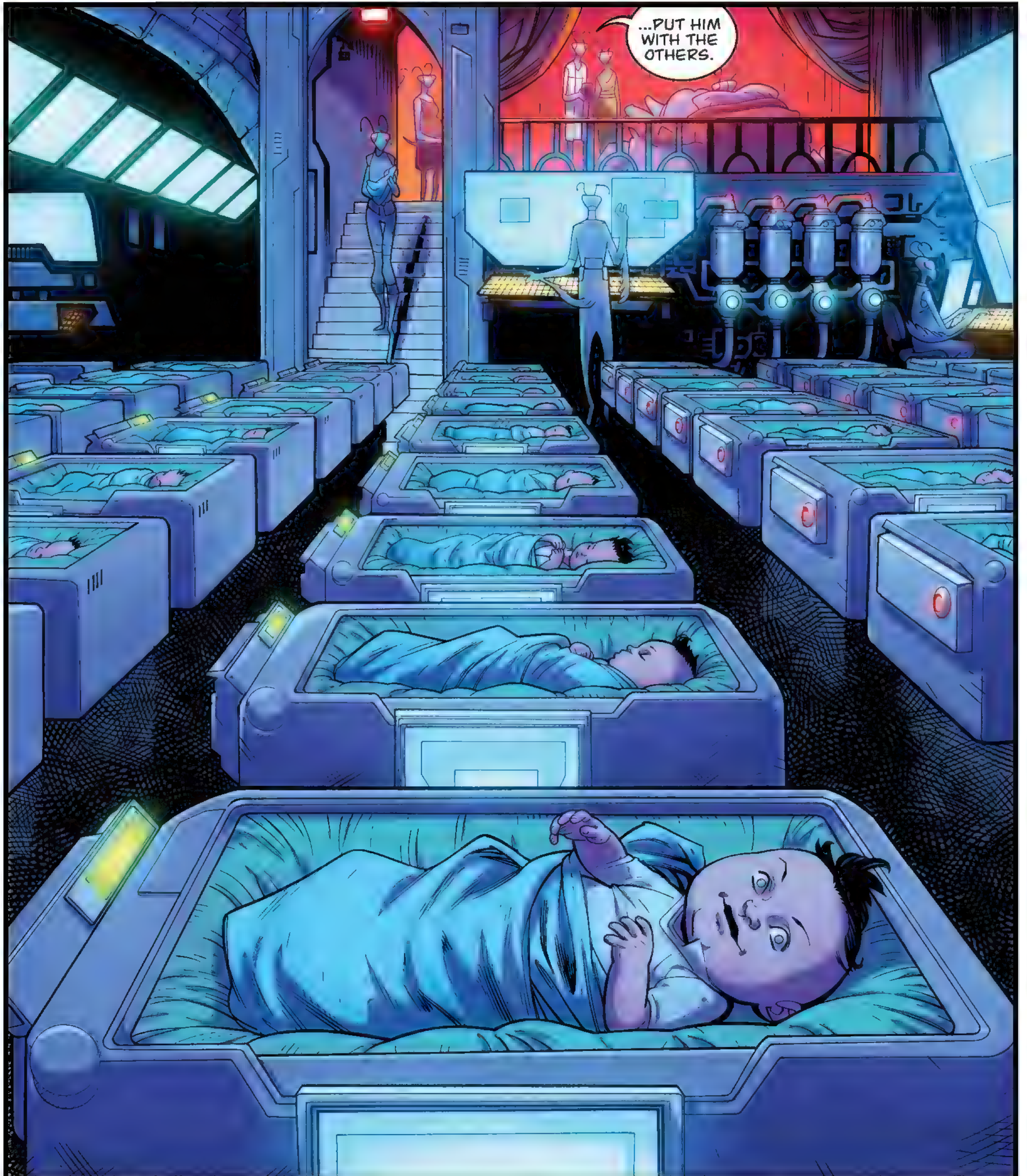
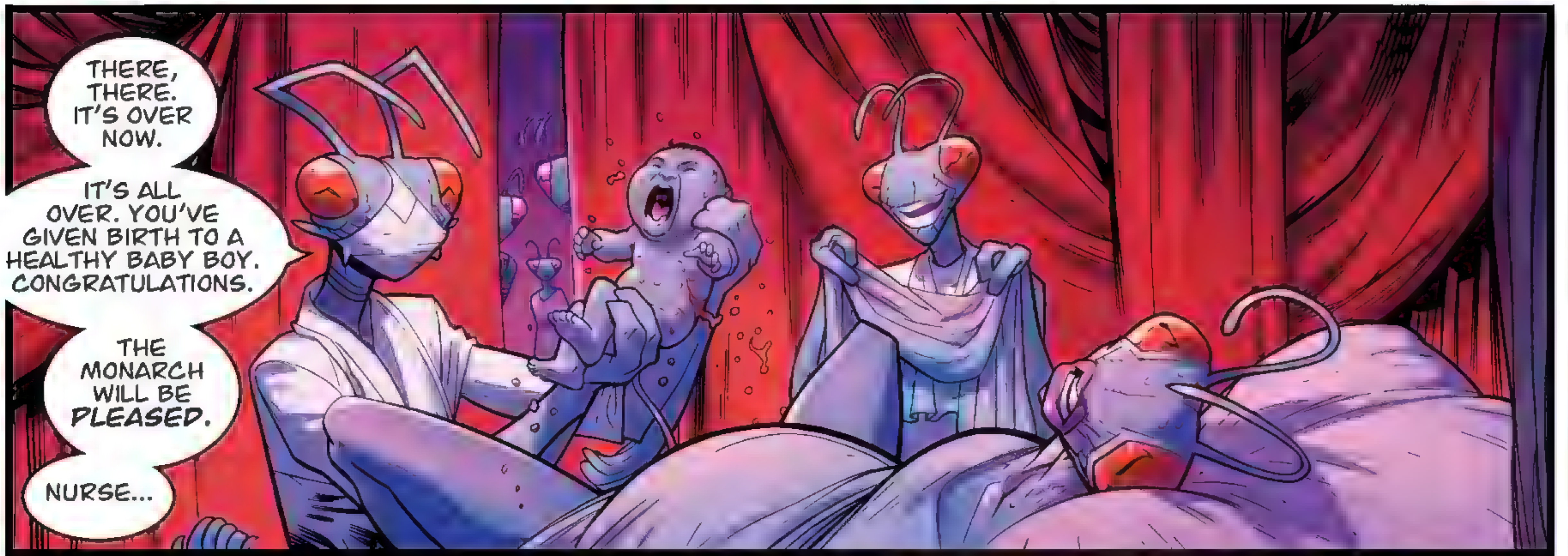
AAGGH!

PLEASE,
PLEASE...
MAKE IT
STOP!

NO!
NO!
N--

NNNNNGGGG!

YEA AAGH!!





CHAPTER TWO



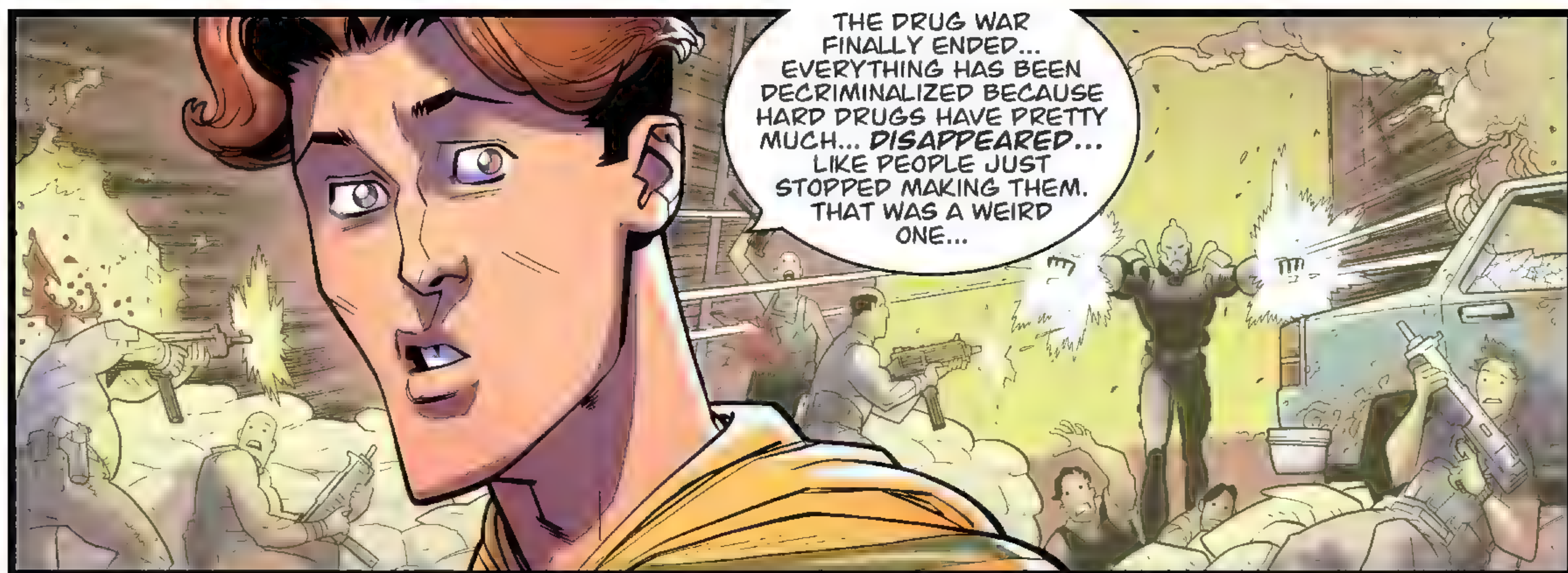


OF
COURSE
I'M EXCITED!
IT'S A WHOLE
NEW WORLD
OUT THERE!

EVERYTHING
IS CHANGING
SO FAST I CAN
HARDLY BELIEVE
IT. I MEAN... HAVE
YOU GUYS NOT
BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION?

HOW COULD
YOU NOT BE
THRILLED WITH
EVERYTHING
THAT'S
HAPPENING?
IT'S ALL
GREAT!

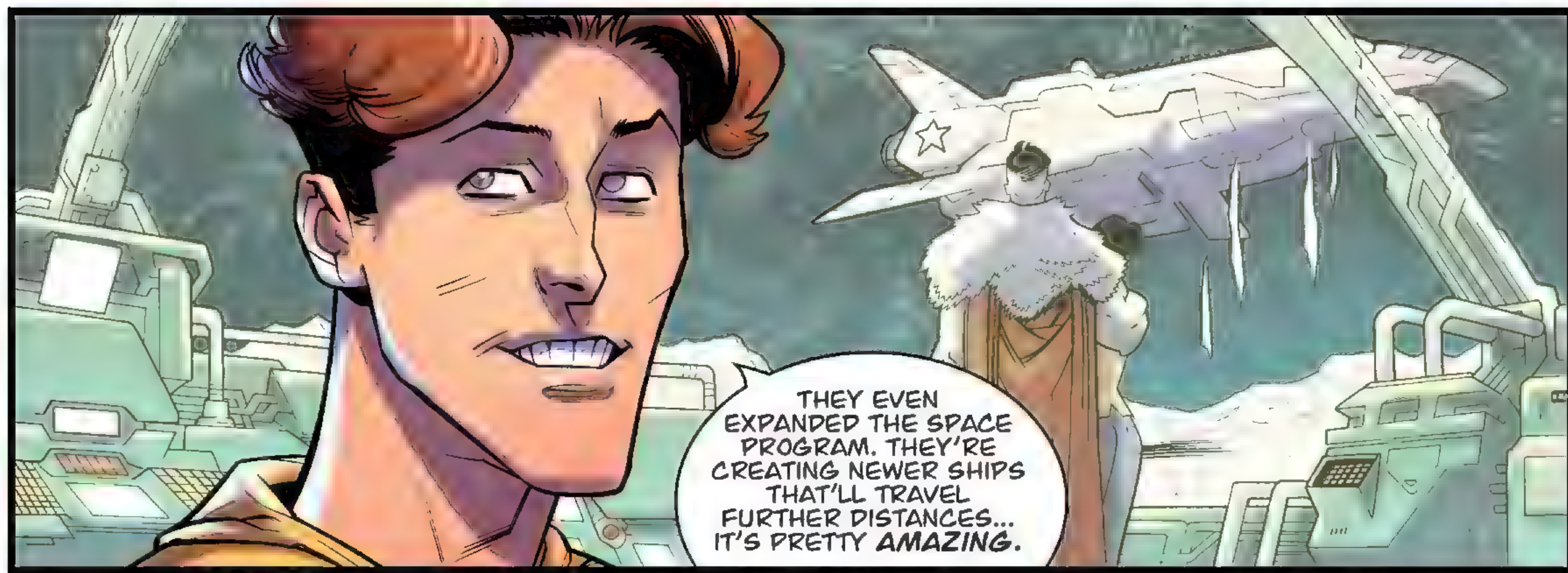




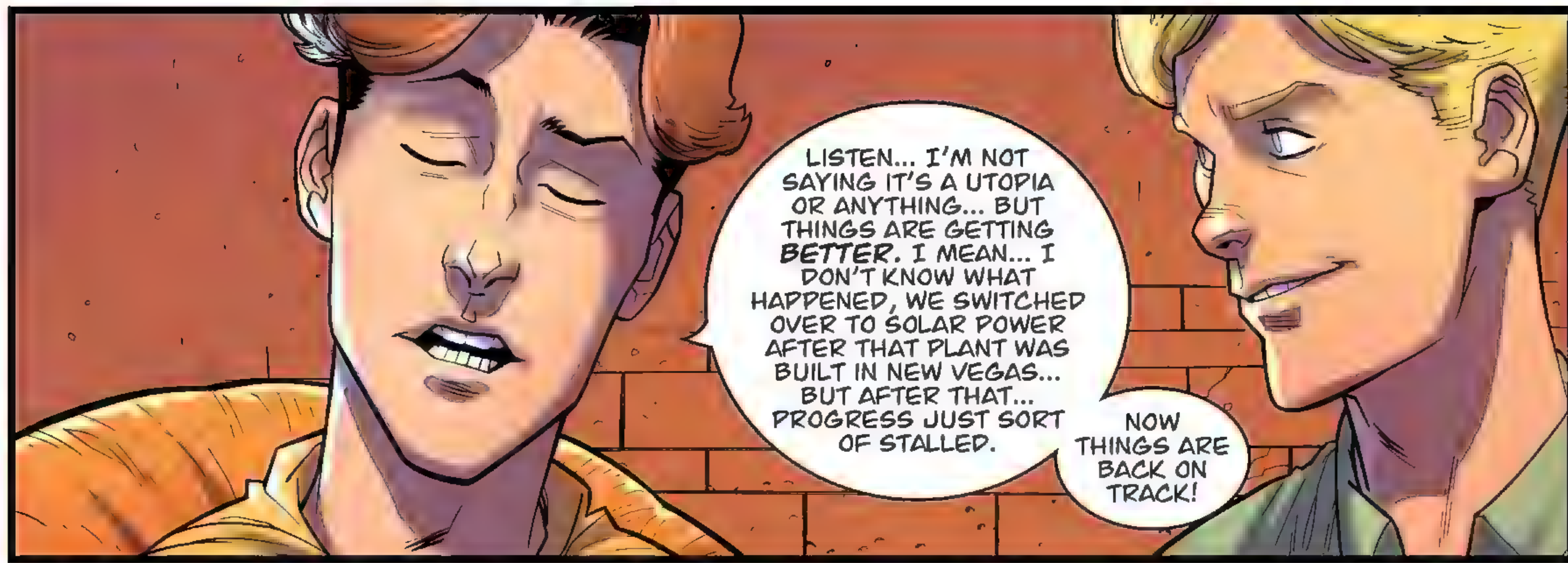
THE DRUG WAR
FINALLY ENDED...
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN
DECRIMINALIZED BECAUSE
HARD DRUGS HAVE PRETTY
MUCH... **DISAPPEARED**...
LIKE PEOPLE JUST
STOPPED MAKING THEM.
THAT WAS A WEIRD
ONE...



NORTH KOREA WAS
LIBERATED. NOW THE PEOPLE
THERE ARE GETTING THE RESOURCES
THEY NEED TO SURVIVE, AND ALL TRADE
SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.

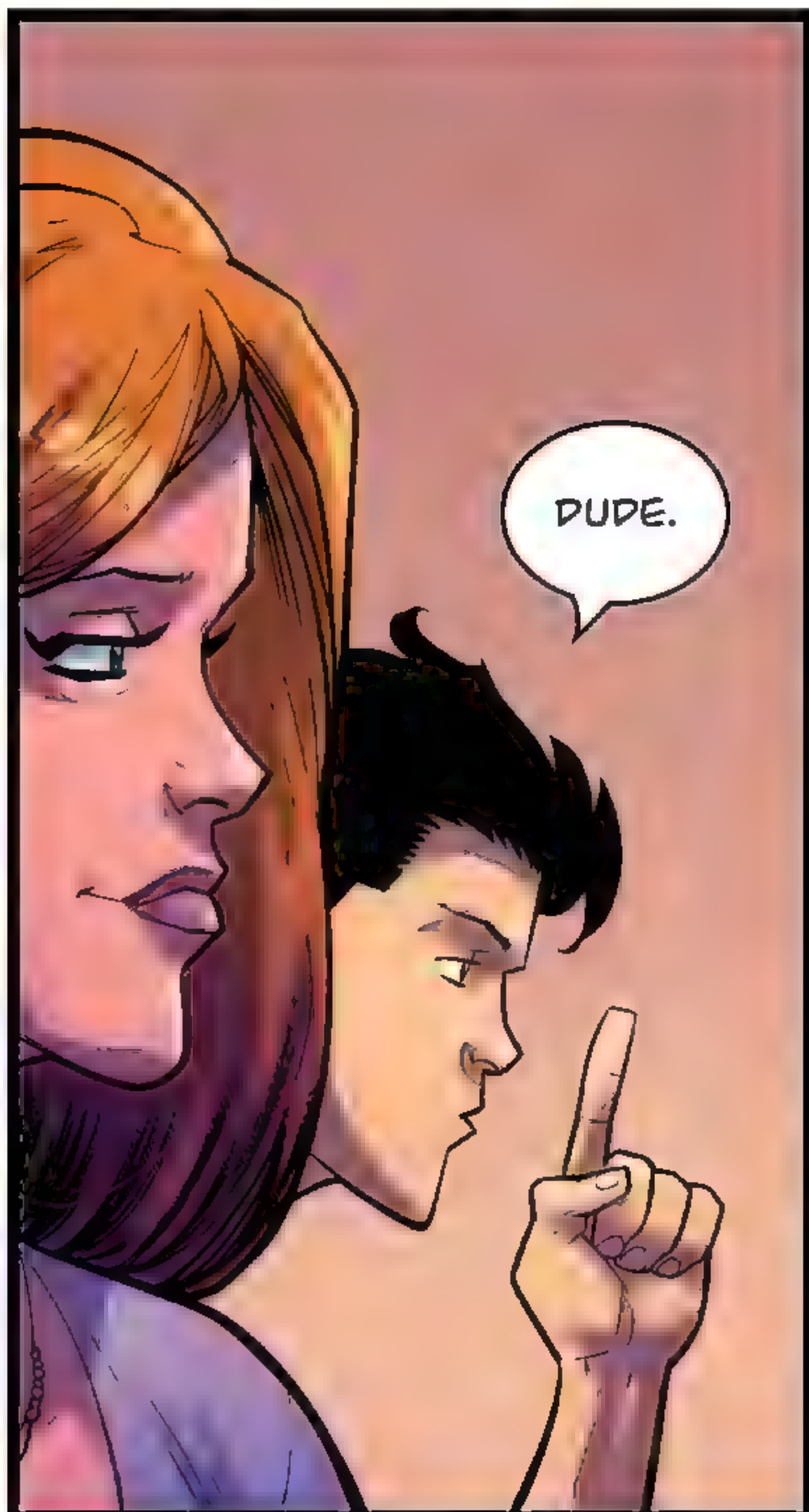
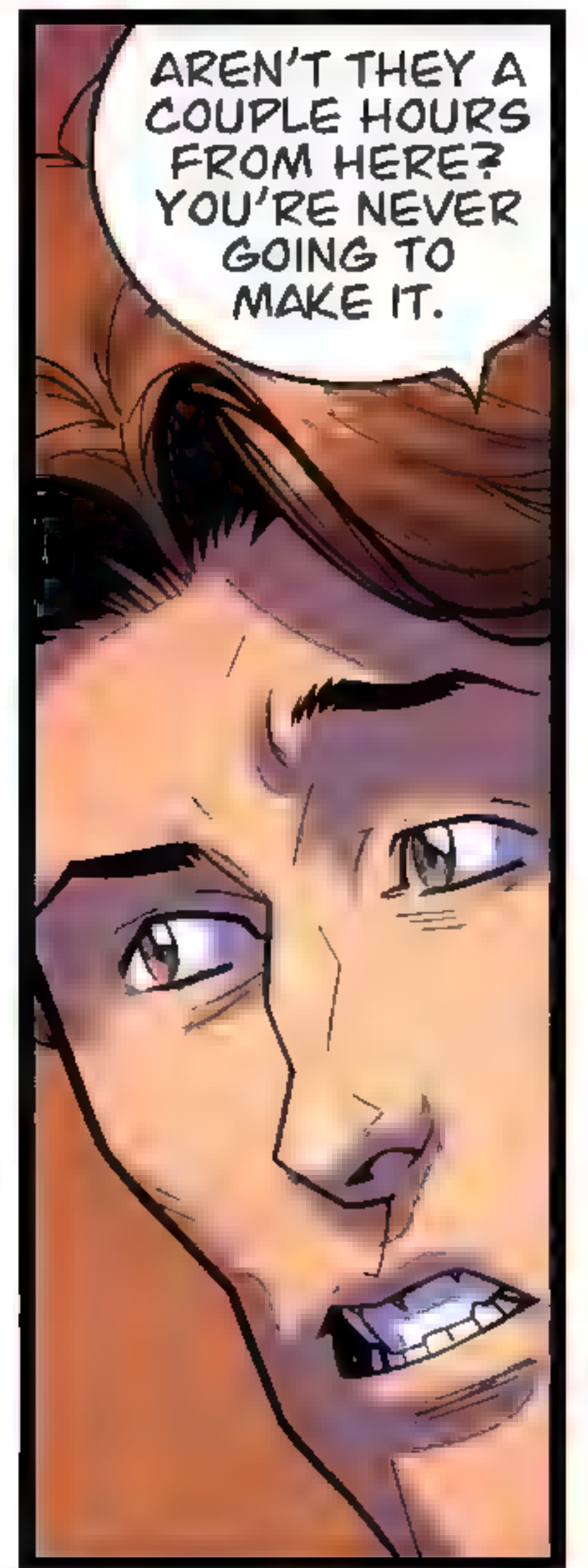
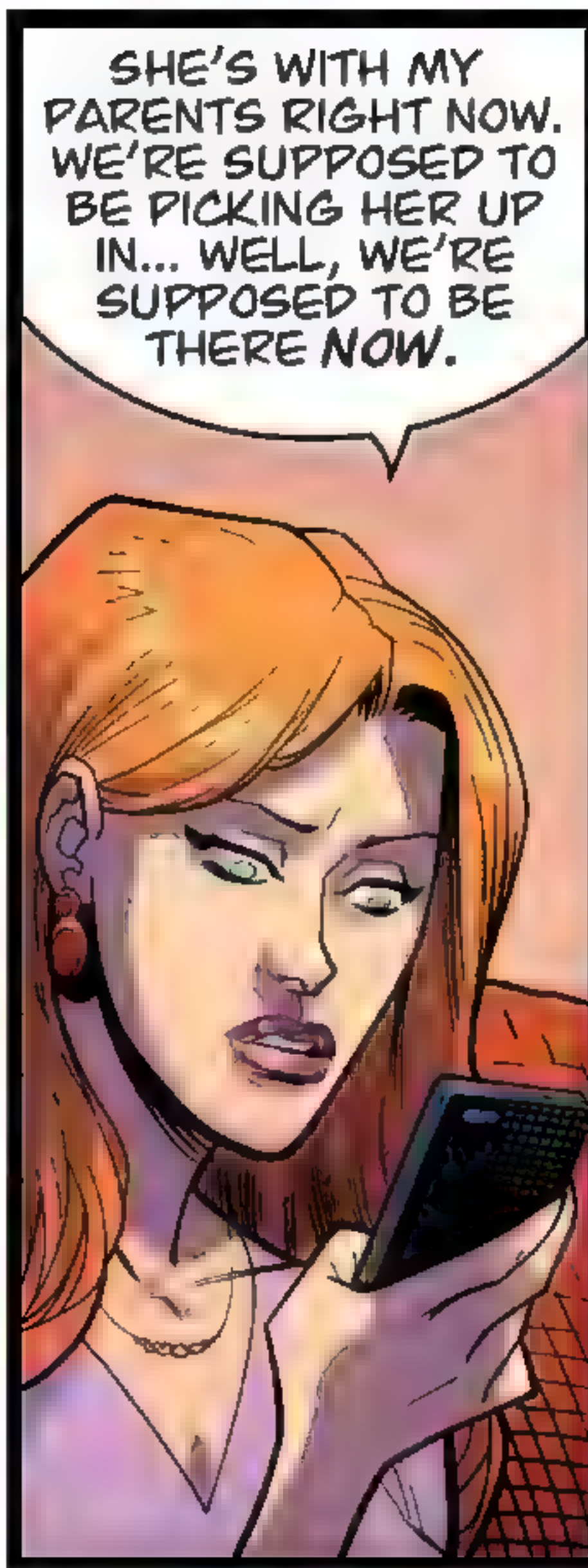
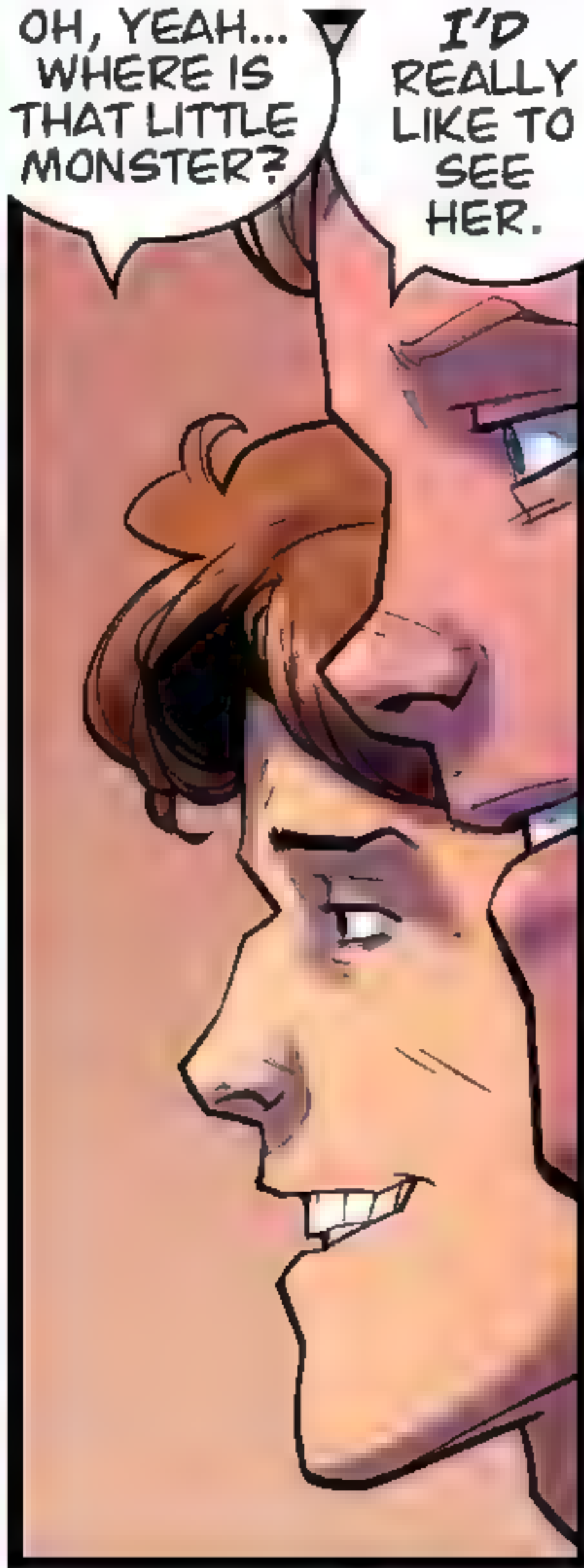
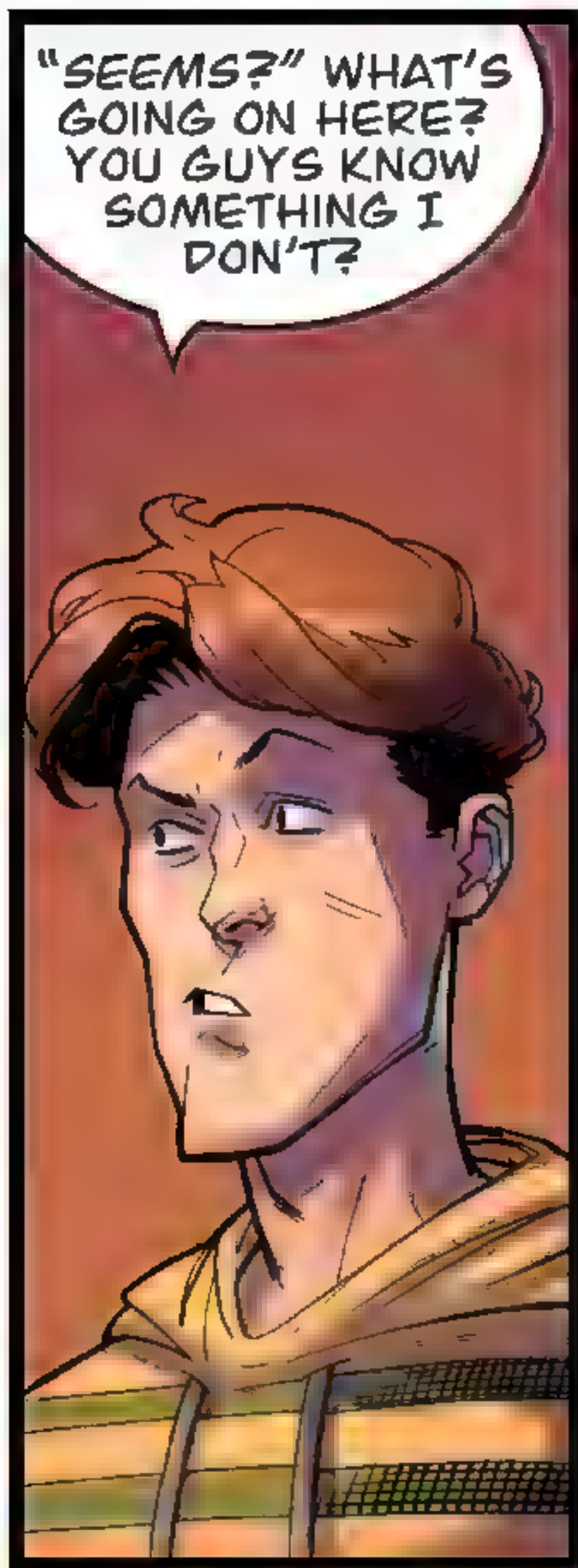
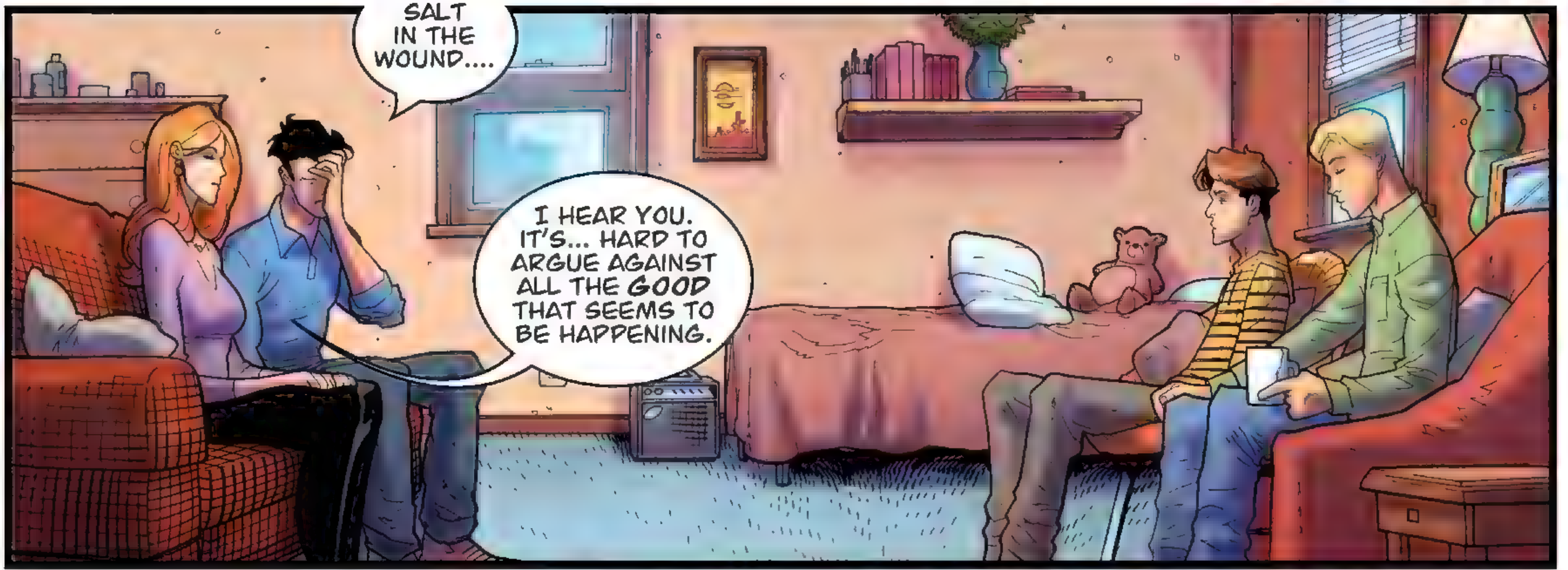


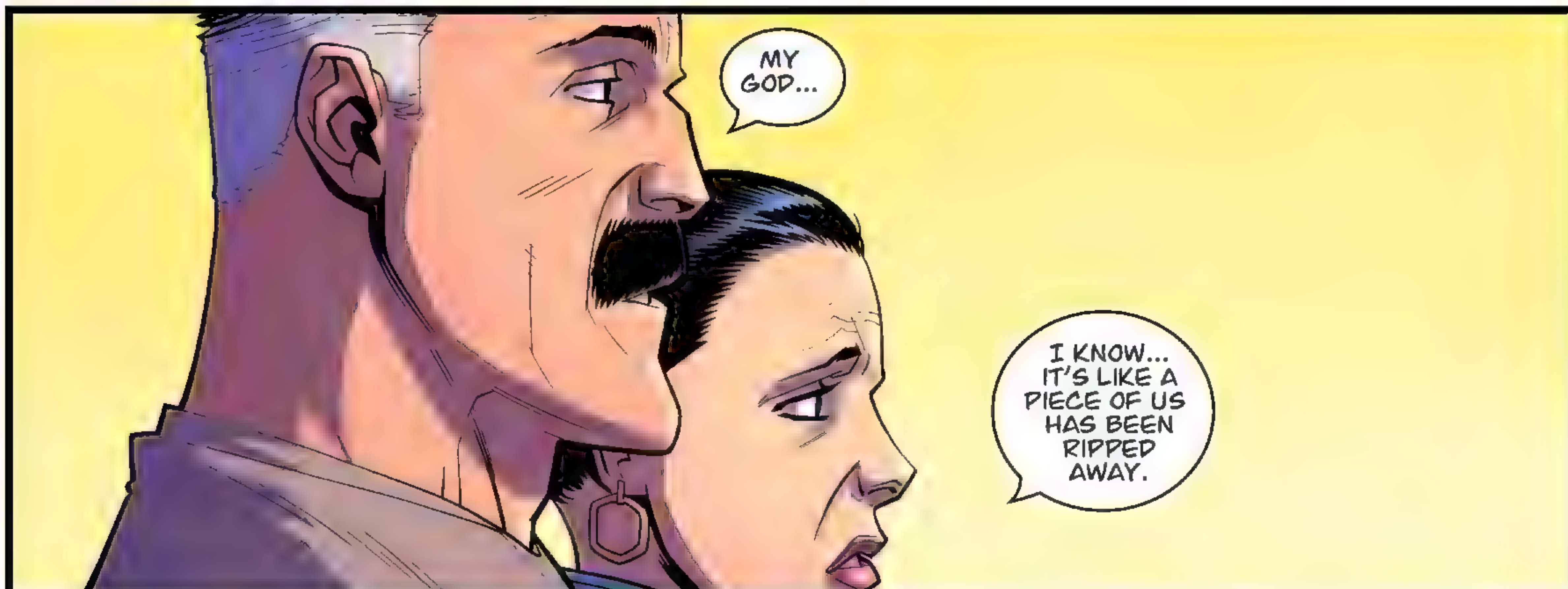
THEY EVEN
EXPANDED THE SPACE
PROGRAM. THEY'RE
CREATING NEWER SHIPS
THAT'LL TRAVEL
FURTHER DISTANCES...
IT'S PRETTY **AMAZING**.



LISTEN... I'M NOT
SAYING IT'S A UTOPIA
OR ANYTHING... BUT
THINGS ARE GETTING
BETTER. I MEAN... I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED, WE SWITCHED
OVER TO SOLAR POWER
AFTER THAT PLANT WAS
BUILT IN NEW VEGAS...
BUT AFTER THAT...
PROGRESS JUST SORT
OF STALLED.

NOW
THINGS ARE
BACK ON
TRACK!



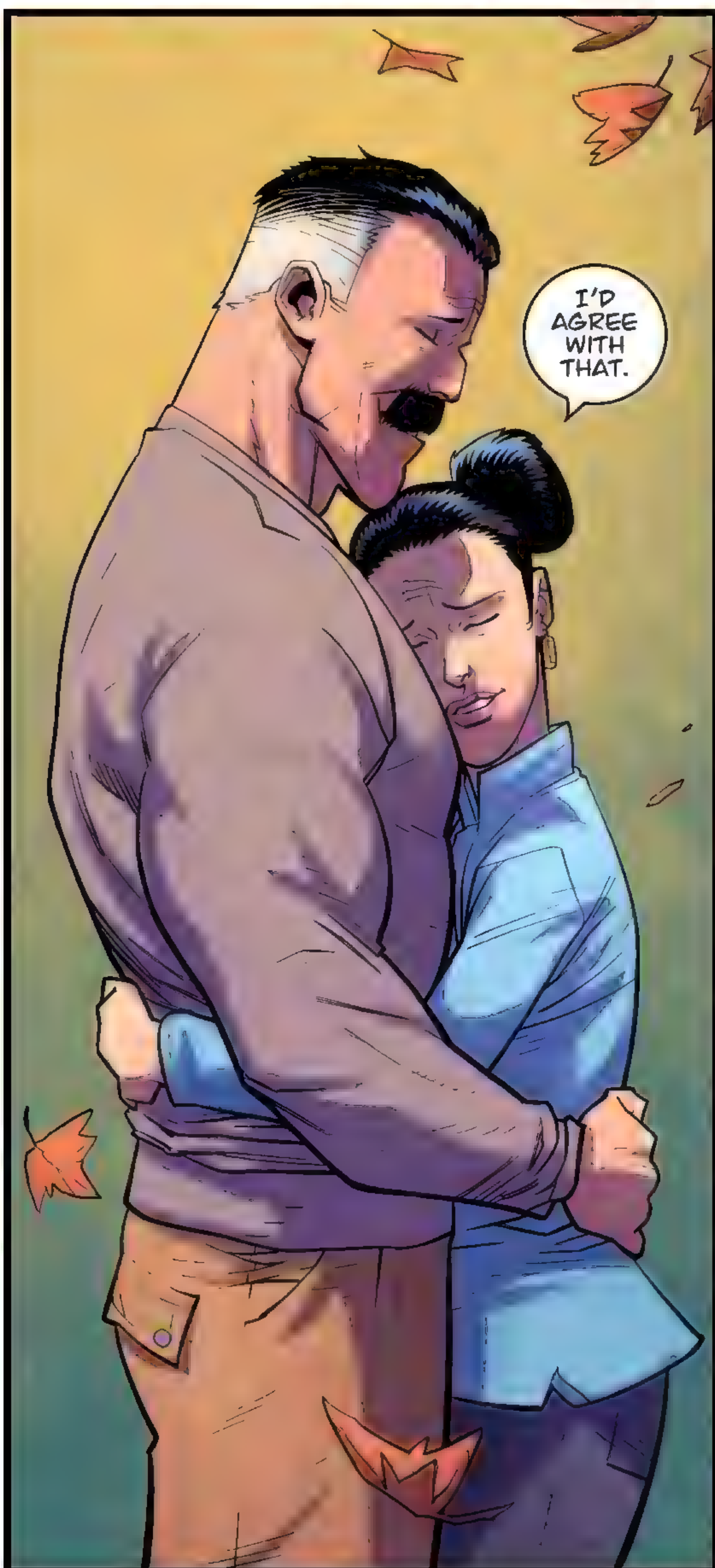


THESE PROBLEMS... THEY'RE **SMALL**... I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE DISTRACTED.

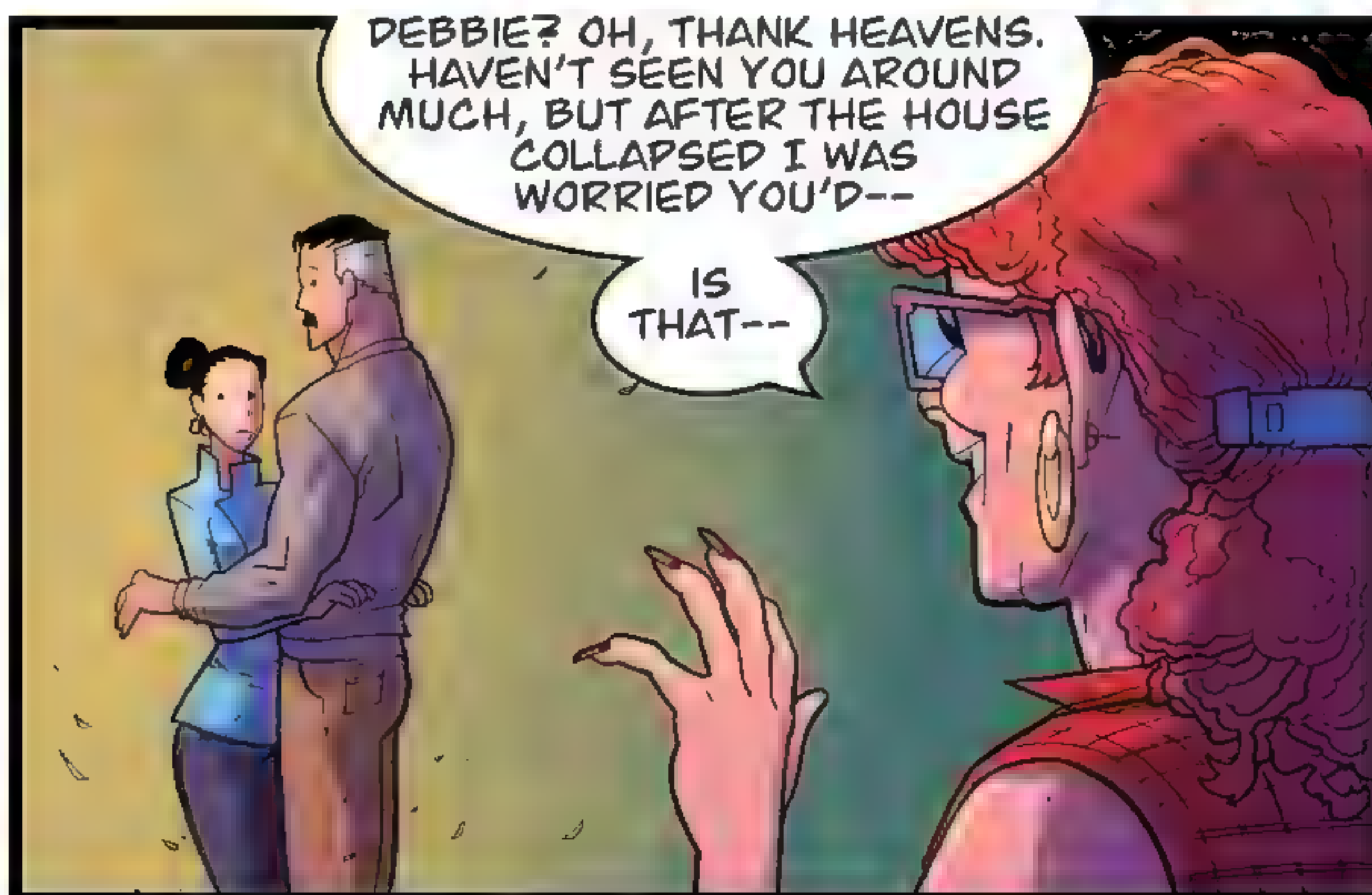
▼ I HAVE TO DO MY DUTY AS EMPEROR... **THAT** IS MY PRIORITY. NOT THE AFFAIRS OF THESE PEOPLE.

WHO WERE WE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO? STANDING HERE... THINKING BACK... I HARDLY **RECOGNIZE** THOSE PEOPLE.

WE WERE HAPPY THEN, BUT I THINK WE'RE **HAPPIER** NOW... DESPITE IT ALL.

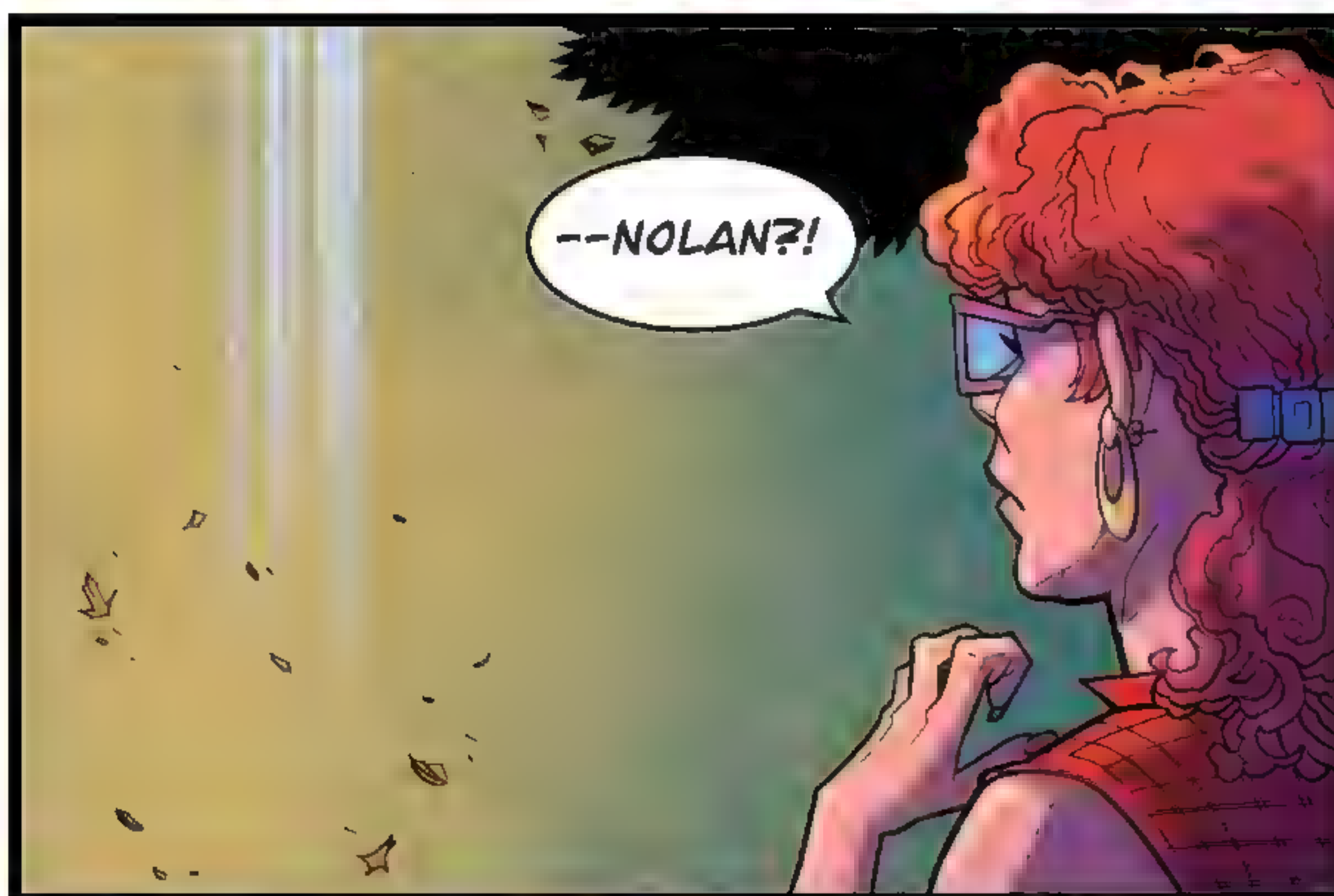


I'D AGREE WITH THAT.



DEBBIE? OH, THANK HEAVENS. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND MUCH, BUT AFTER THE HOUSE COLLAPSED I WAS WORRIED YOU'D--

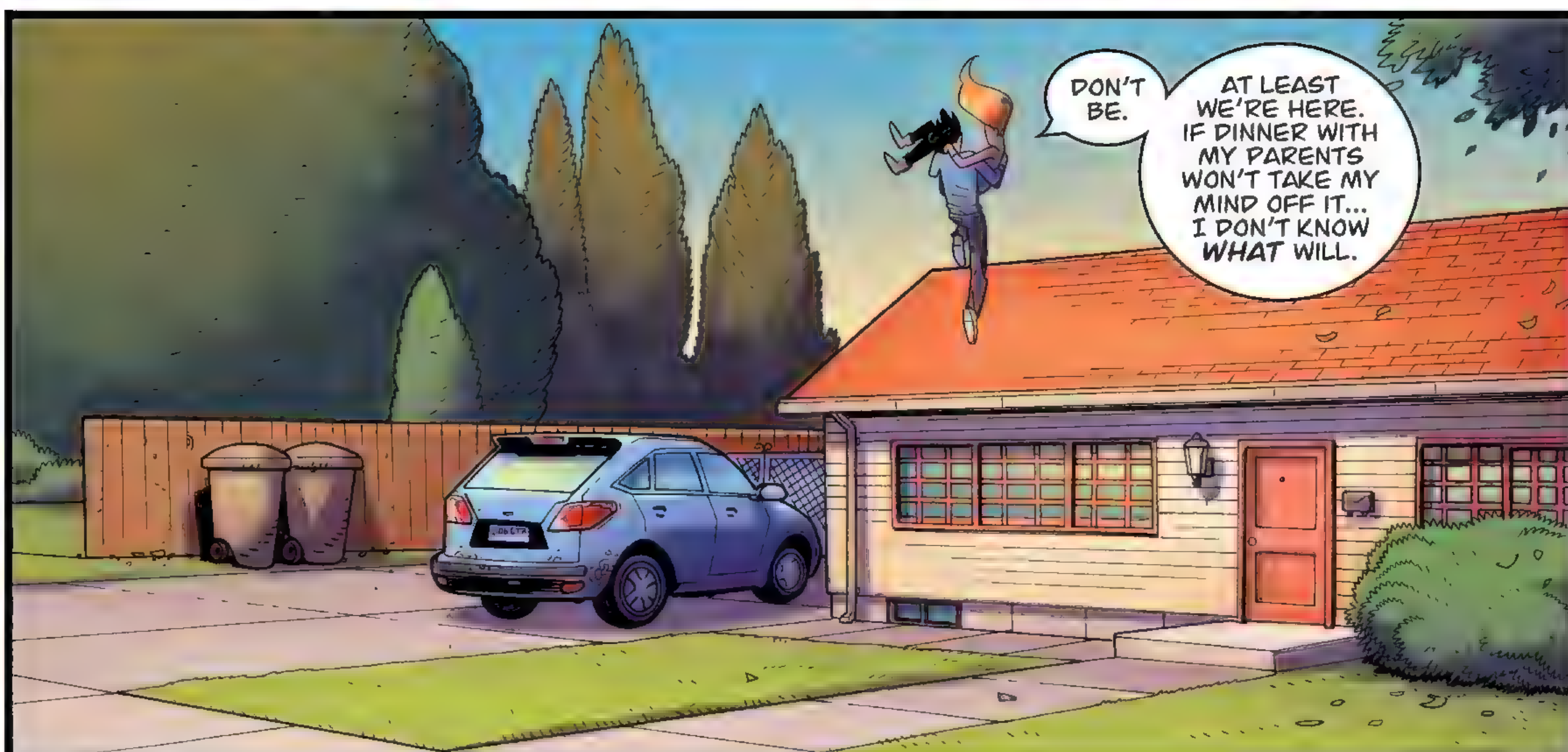
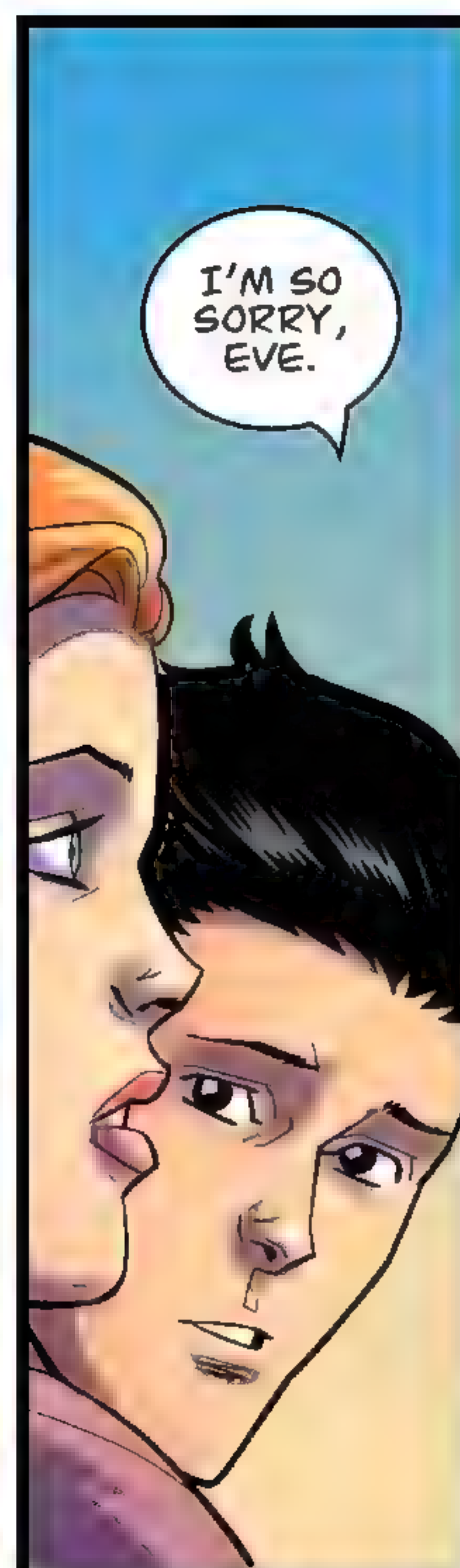
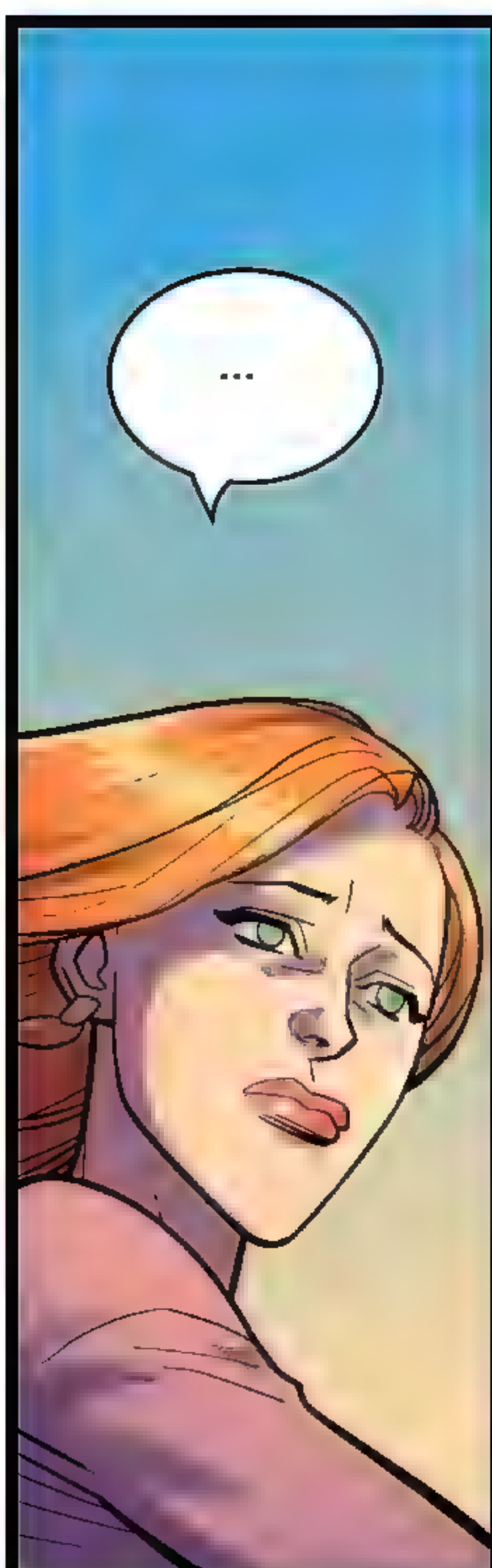
IS THAT--



--NOLAN?!

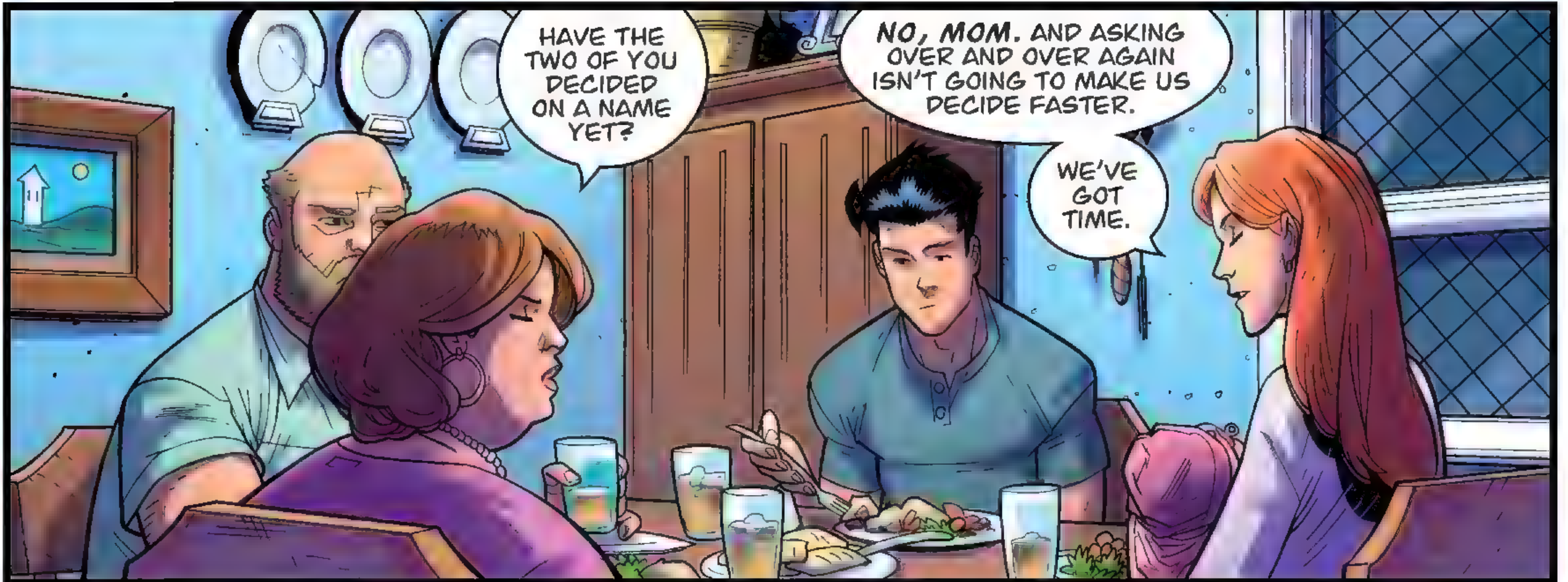


GHOSTS!



ELSEWHERE.

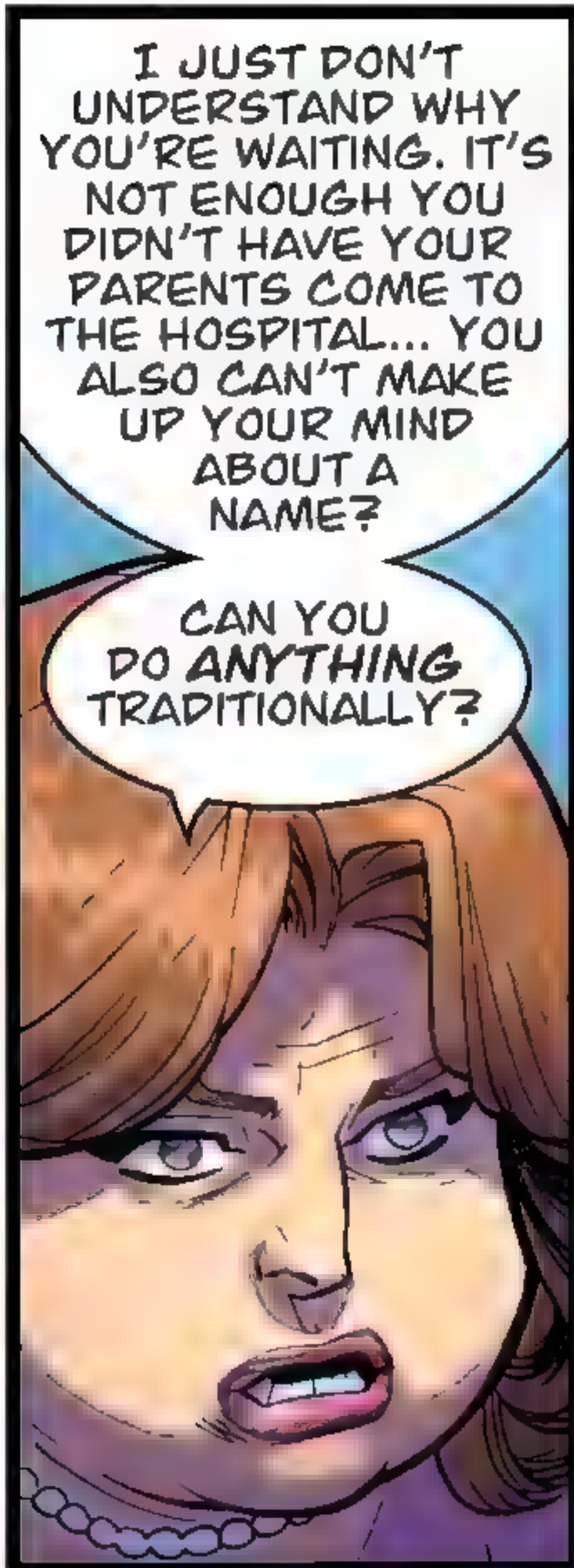




HAVE THE TWO OF YOU DECIDED ON A NAME YET?

NO, MOM. AND ASKING OVER AND OVER AGAIN ISN'T GOING TO MAKE US DECIDE FASTER.

WE'VE GOT TIME.



I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE WAITING. IT'S NOT ENOUGH YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR PARENTS COME TO THE HOSPITAL... YOU ALSO CAN'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT A NAME?

CAN YOU DO ANYTHING TRADITIONALLY?



MAYBE NOT, MOM. WE'RE GOING TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE THE PERFECT NAME.

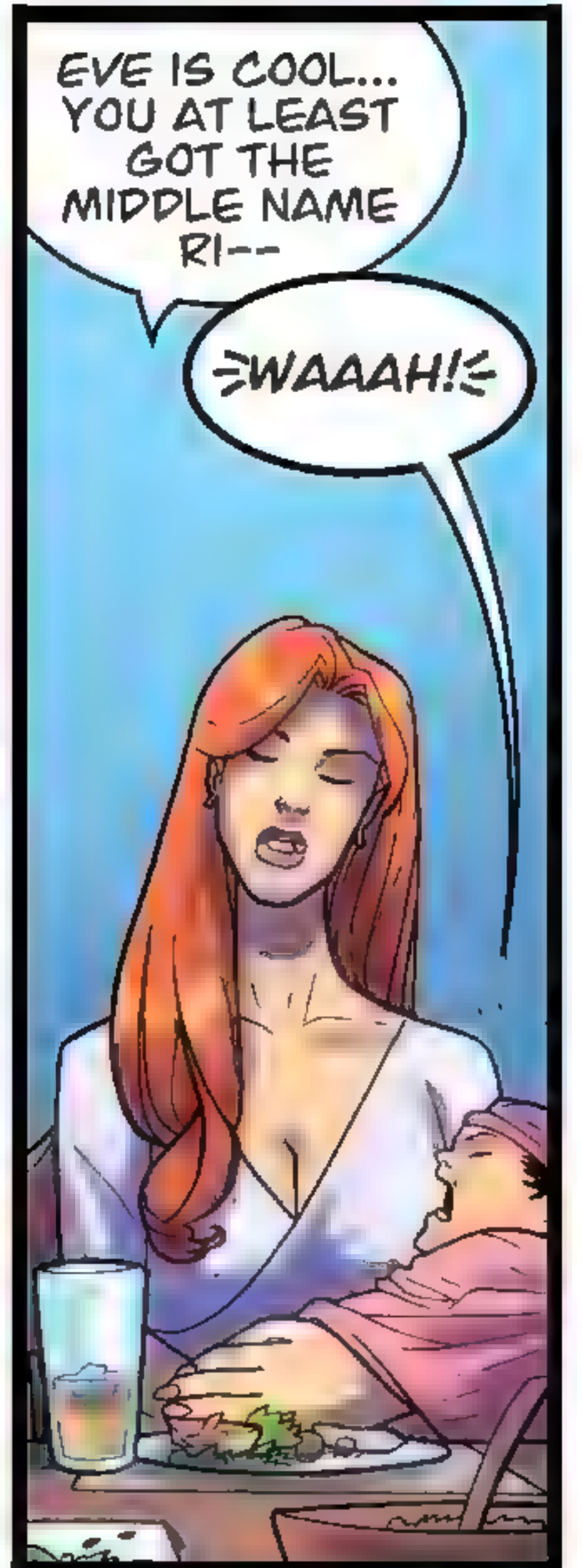
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER "SAMANTHA" SITUATION.



AND JUST WHAT IS SO WRONG WITH YOUR NAME?!



I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S A TERRIBLE NAME. IT'S COMPLETELY BORING.



EVE IS COOL... YOU AT LEAST GOT THE MIDDLE NAME RI--

≡WAAAAH!≡



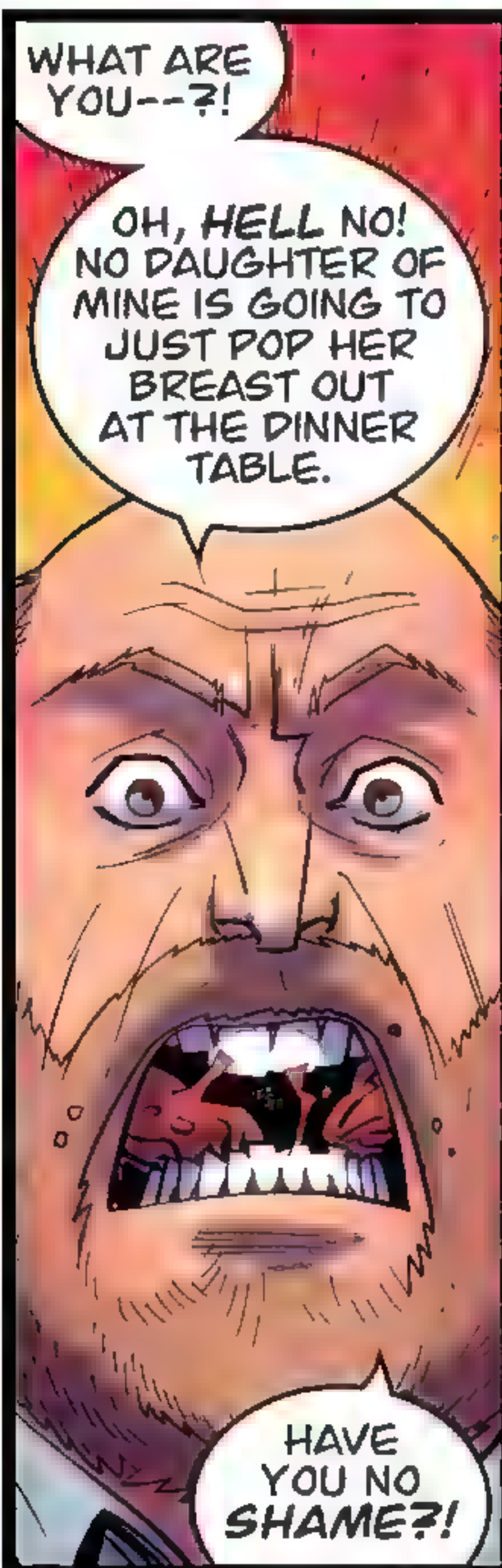
≡WAH!≡
≡WAAAAH!≡

LET ME TAKE HER. YOU GUYS CAN EAT.



≡WAAAAH!≡

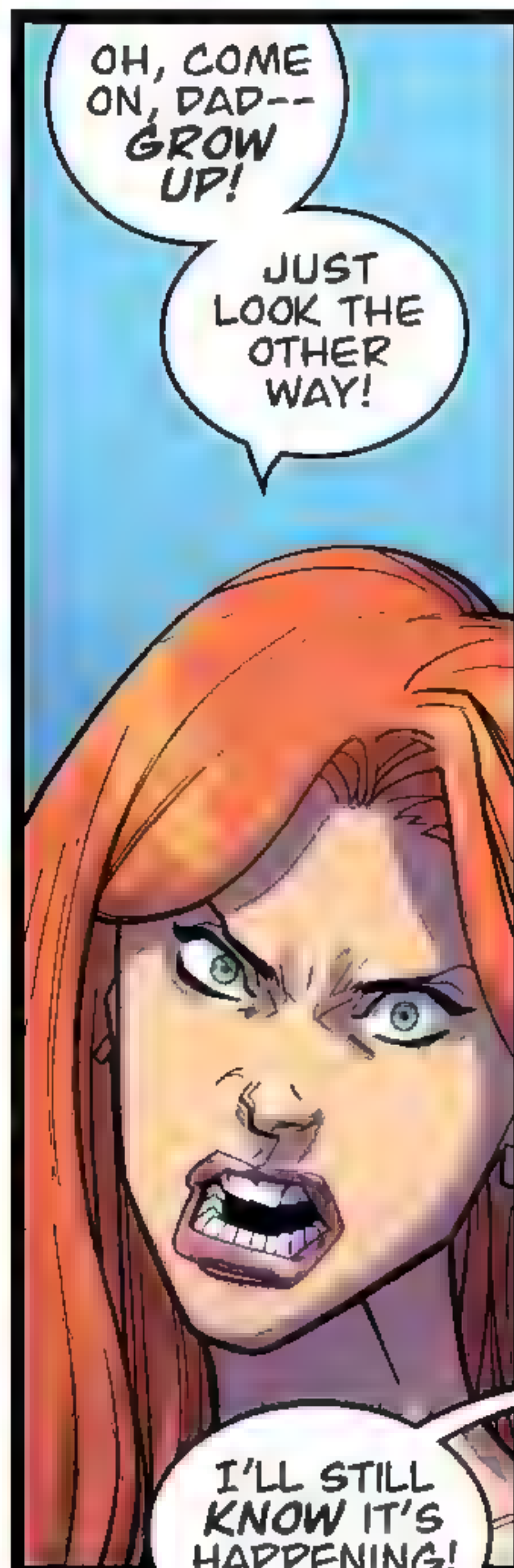
NONSENSE, SHE'S PROBABLY JUST HUNGRY HERSELF. IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME.



WHAT ARE YOU--?!

OH, HELL NO! NO DAUGHTER OF MINE IS GOING TO JUST POP HER BREAST OUT AT THE DINNER TABLE.

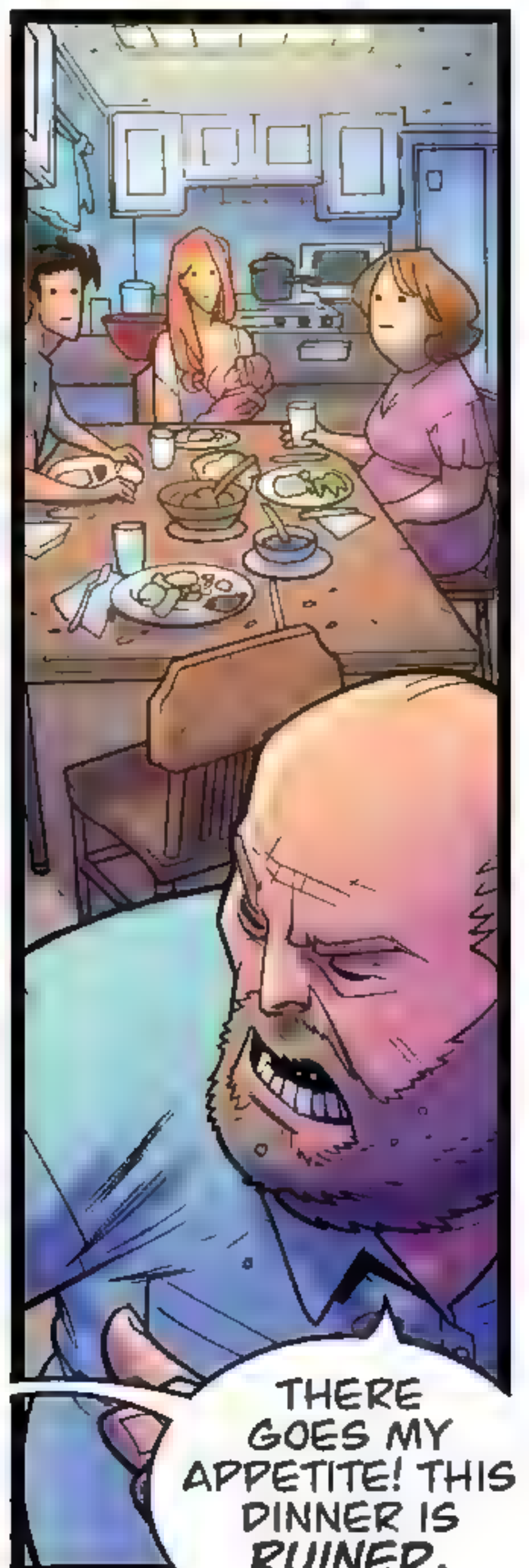
HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!



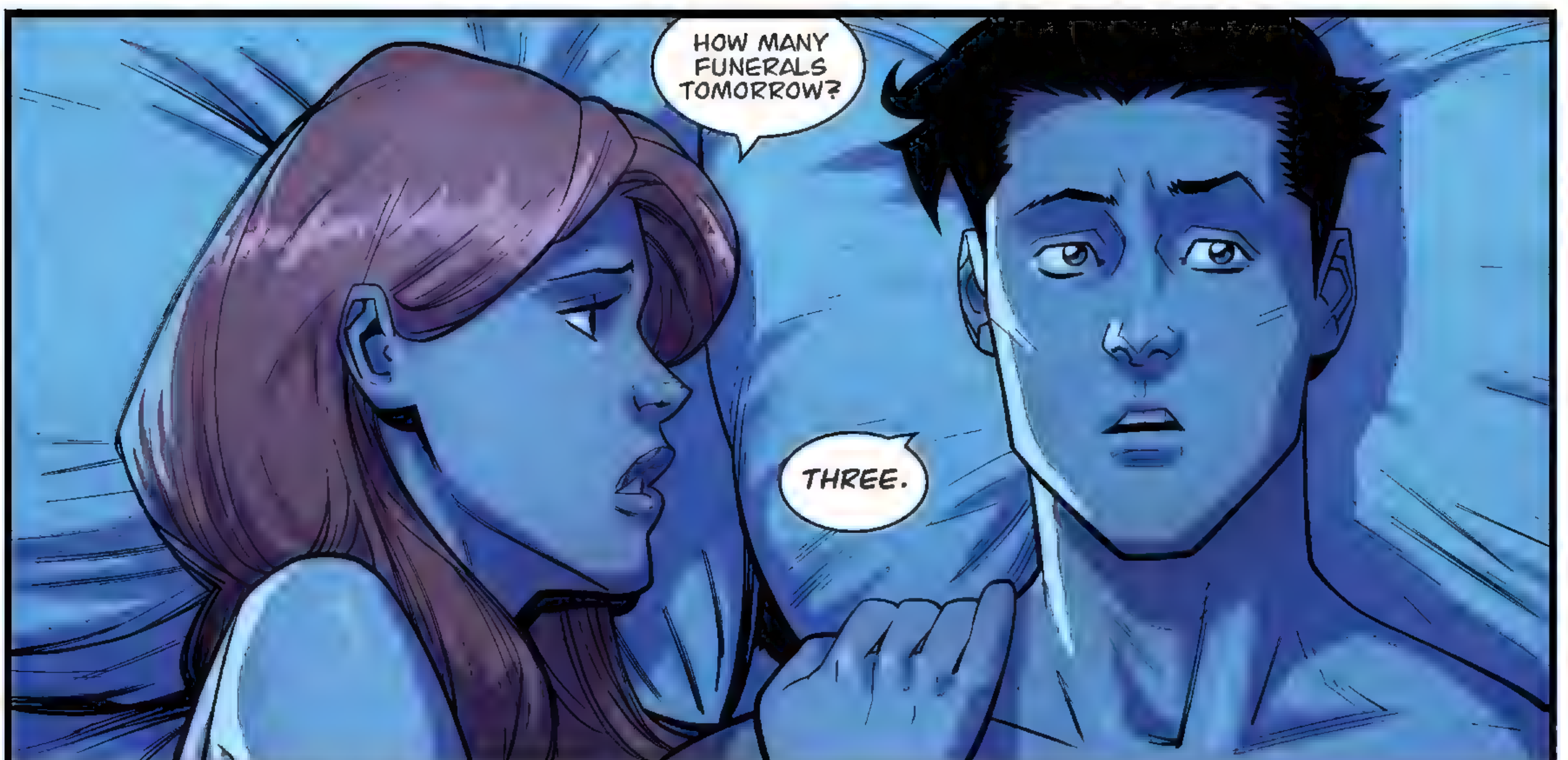
OH, COME ON, DAD--
GROW UP!

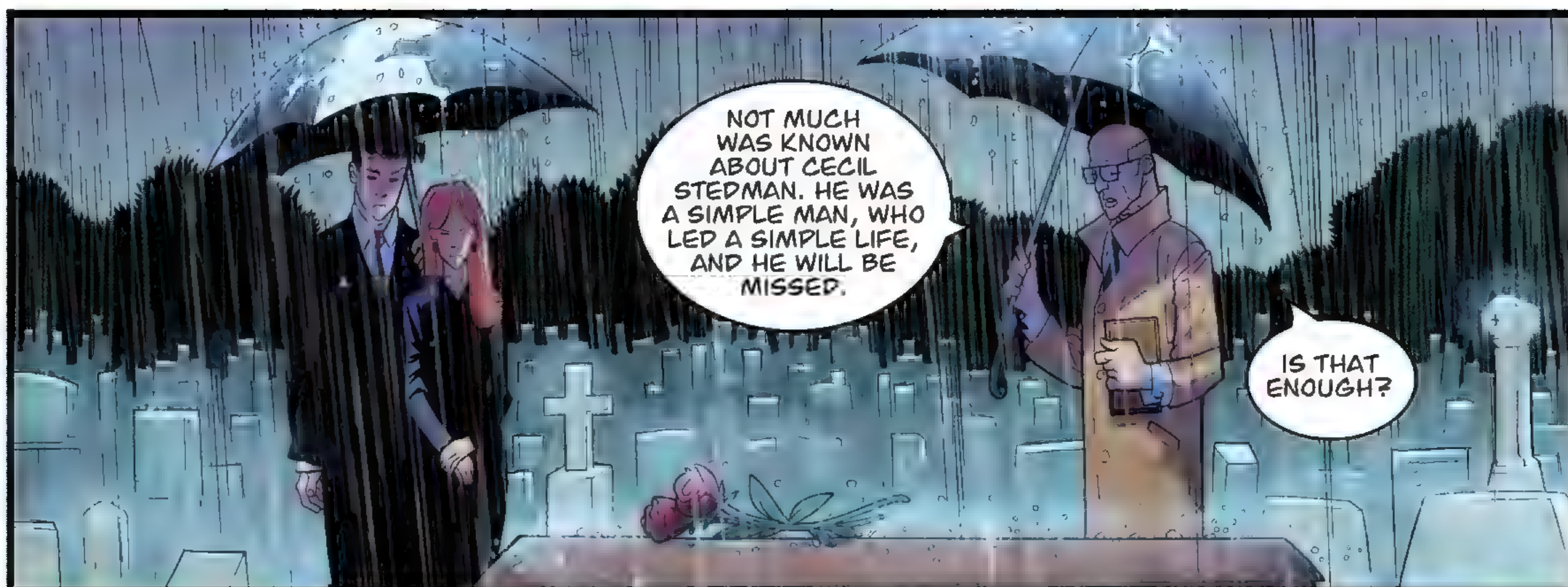
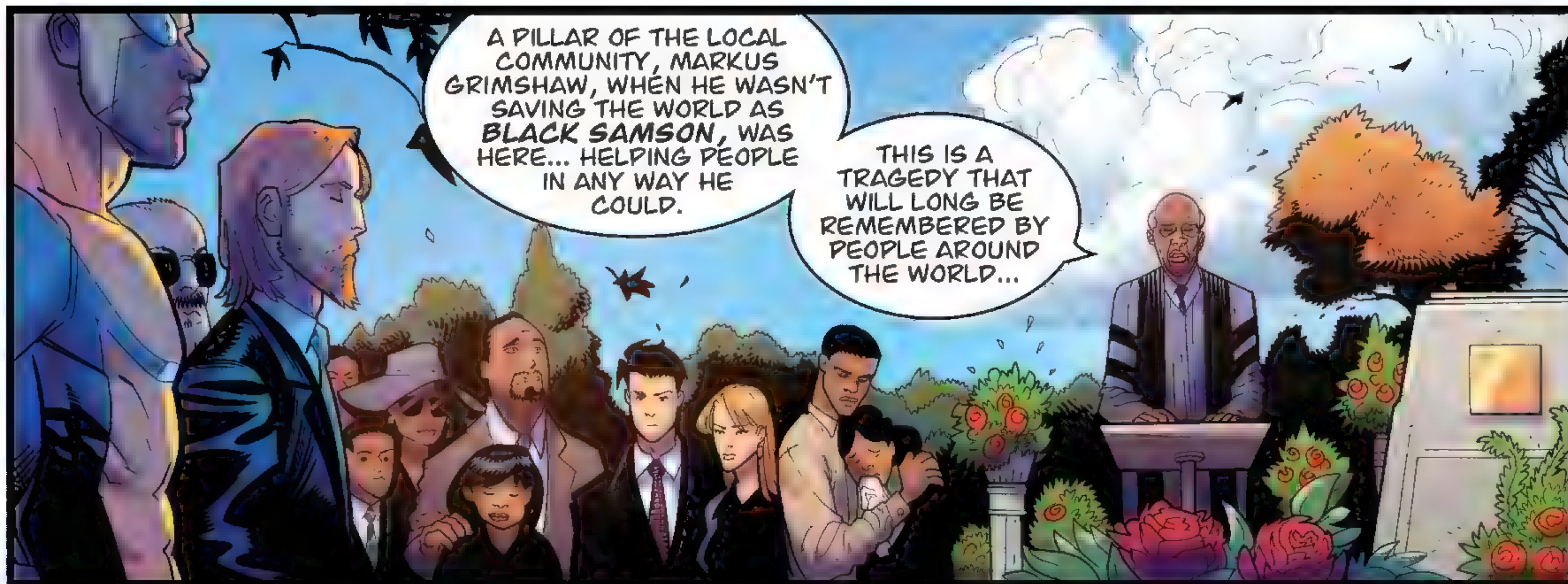
JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY!

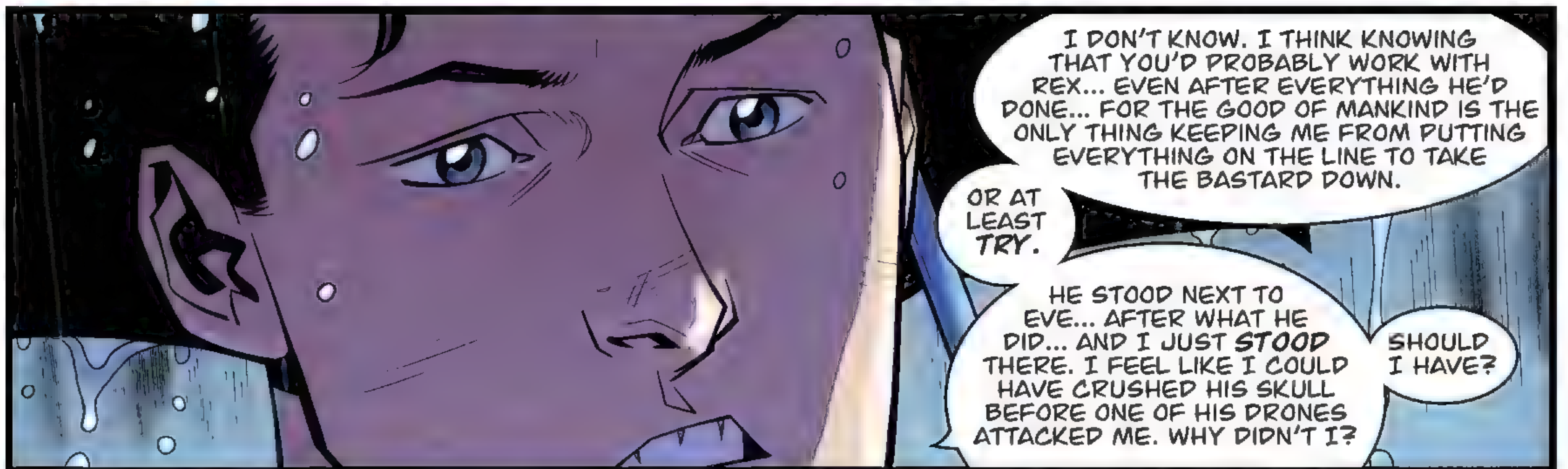
I'LL STILL KNOW IT'S HAPPENING!

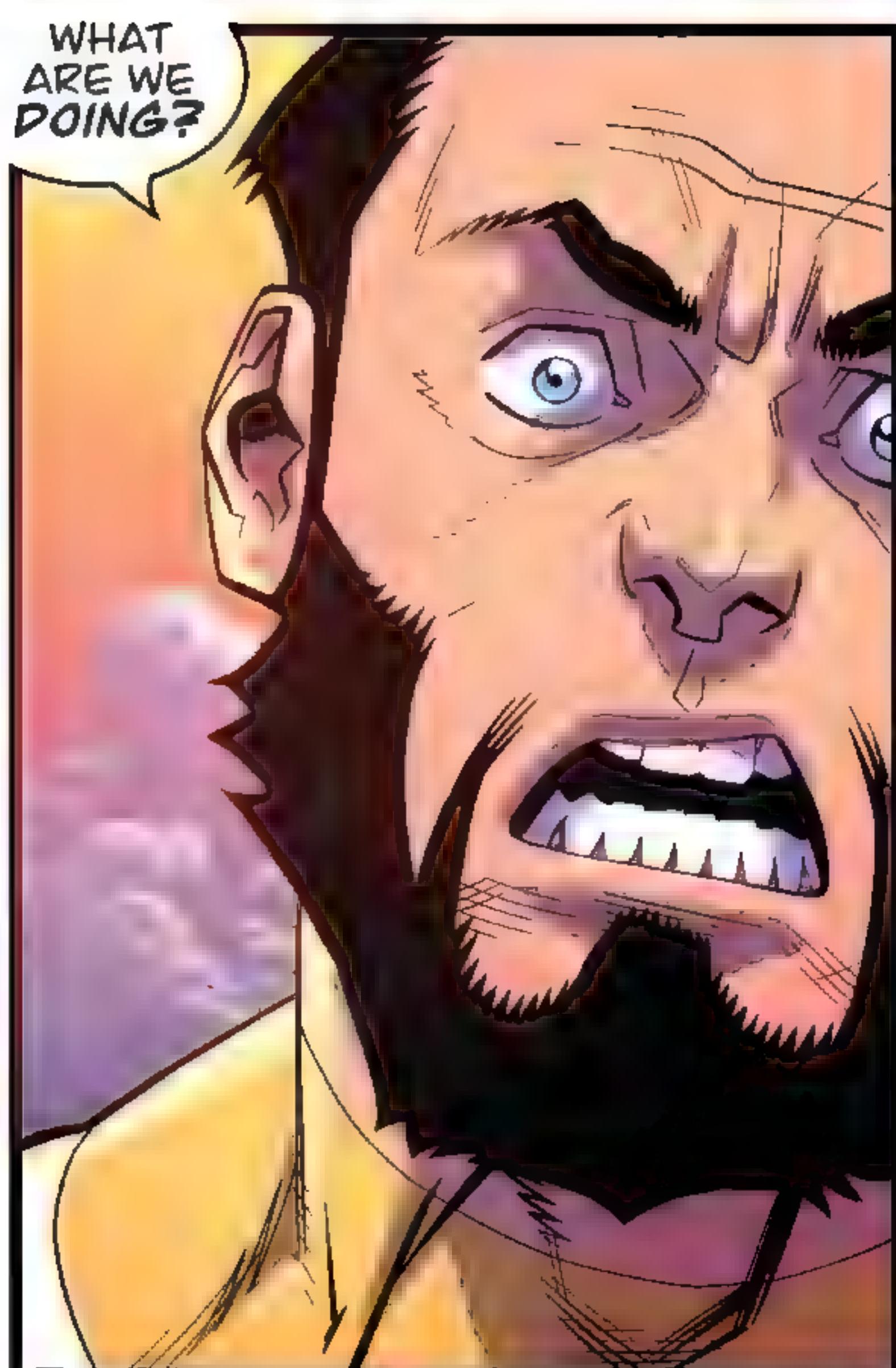
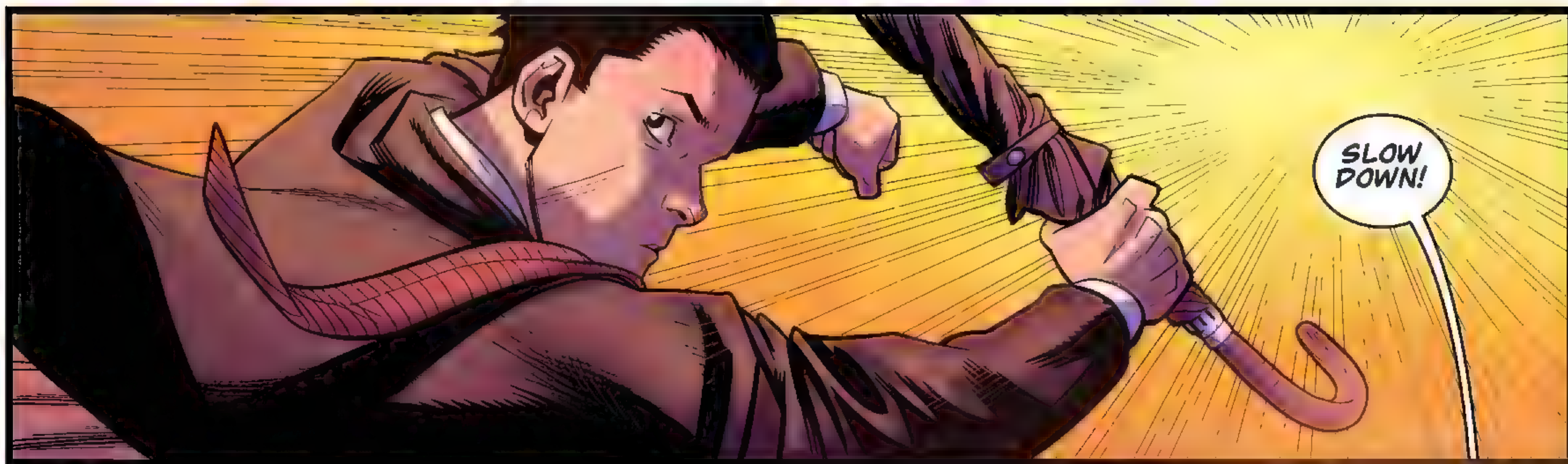


THERE GOES MY APPETITE! THIS DINNER IS RUINED.







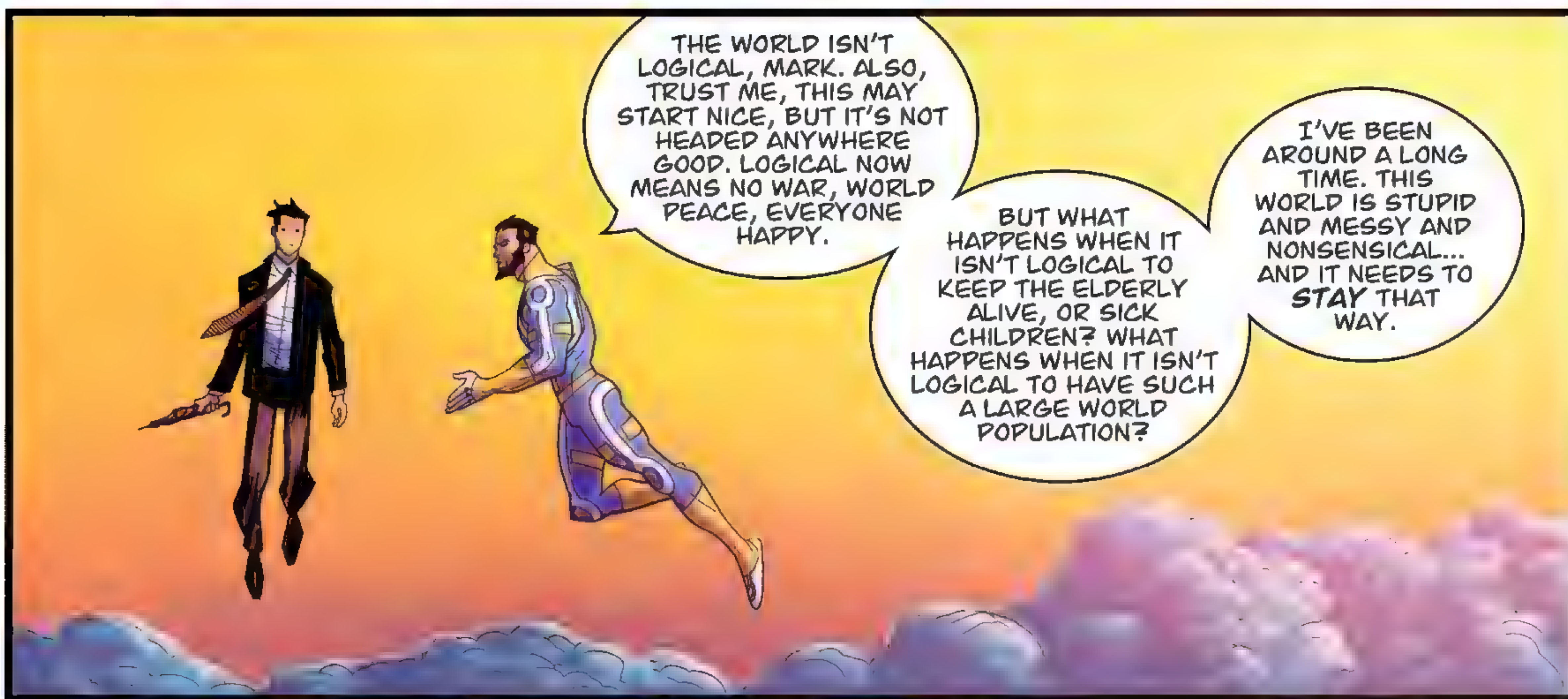




I KNOW ALL THAT, AND I AGREE WITH YOU... BUT THE THING IS... ROBOT DIDN'T GO BAD. HE'S NOT TAKING OVER BECAUSE OF EGO, OR AN INTENT TO CONTROL, OR DO WRONG. HE'S A **GENIUS**, MIGHT BE THE SMARTEST PERSON ON EARTH.

AS MUCH AS I HATE IT... WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO IS COLD HARD INTELLECT. HE'S DOING WHAT IS **LOGICAL** IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR LIVES BETTER.

WHAT IF HE'S **RIGHT**?



THE WORLD ISN'T LOGICAL, MARK. ALSO, TRUST ME, THIS MAY START NICE, BUT IT'S NOT HEADED ANYWHERE GOOD. LOGICAL NOW MEANS NO WAR, WORLD PEACE, EVERYONE HAPPY.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT ISN'T LOGICAL TO KEEP THE ELDERLY ALIVE, OR SICK CHILDREN? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT ISN'T LOGICAL TO HAVE SUCH A LARGE WORLD POPULATION?

I'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. THIS WORLD IS STUPID AND MESSY AND NONSENSICAL... AND IT NEEDS TO **STAY** THAT WAY.



I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH AT RISK. HE'S ALREADY GONE AFTER EVE ONCE... I CAN'T PUT HER IN DANGER... NOT BEFORE I **KNOW** IT'S NECESSARY.



I'M WILLING TO WAGER I'VE LOST MORE THAN YOU IN MY TIME ON THIS EARTH. WE HAVE TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR THE GREATER GOOD. THAT'S WHO WE ARE.

I KNOW KATE WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO USE HER AS AN **EXCUSE** NOT TO DO WHAT I **KNOW** IS RIGHT.



...

THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
CURRENTLY STATIONED
ON THE MOON.

BUT HE'S NOT
EXPECTING IT. WHAT
IF WE TOOK OUR TIME,
ORGANIZED... MOVED
OUR FORCES AGAINST
HIM SLOWLY AND
THEN STRUCK AT
THE RIGHT
TIME?

I COULD
ORGANIZE THE
TEAMS ON EARTH,
THOSE STILL ALIVE...
YOU COULD GET
THE VILTRUMITES
INVOLVED WHEN
WE NEED
YOU.

NO.

LISTEN AND REALLY
HEAR ME, SON. YOU
CAN HATE ME FOR THIS
IF YOU WANT, I CAN LIVE
WITH THAT... BUT I'M NOT
GOING TO LET YOUR
HUMAN NOTIONS OF
FREEDOM AND JUSTICE
GET IN THE WAY OF THE
SURVIVAL OF OUR
PEOPLE.

LESSER BEINGS
ARE SOMETIMES
BETTER OFF WITH SOMEONE
MORE INTELLIGENT BEING IN
CONTROL. A DOMESTICATED DOG
IS BETTER OFF THAN A WILD ONE...

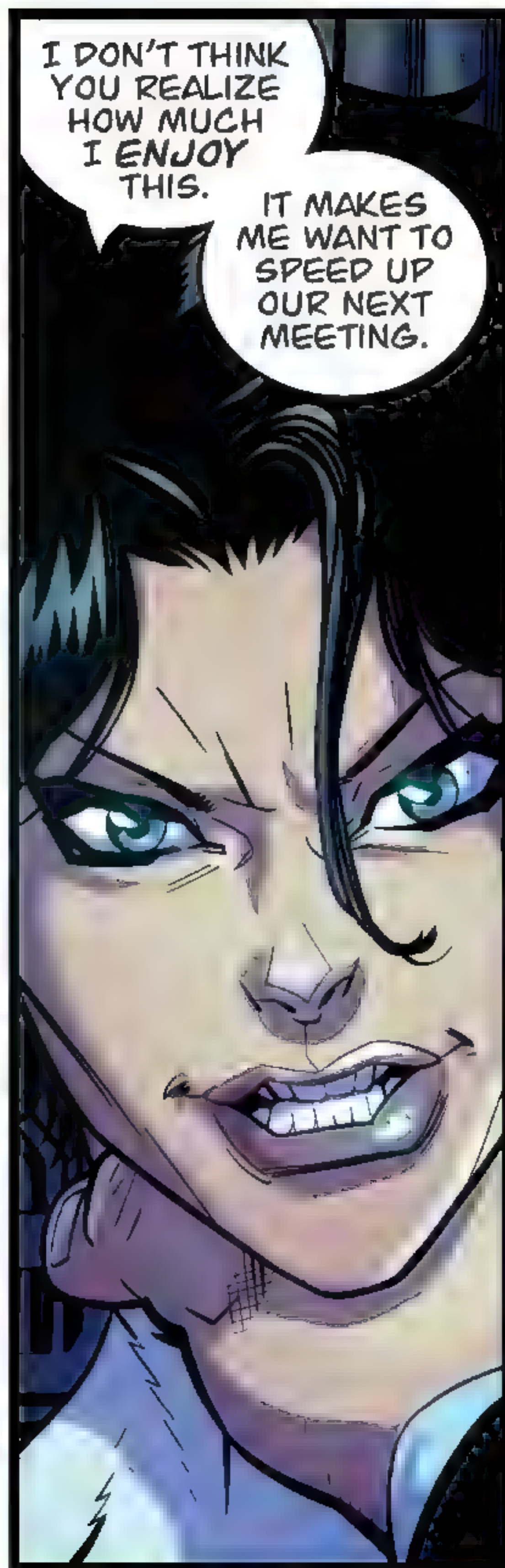
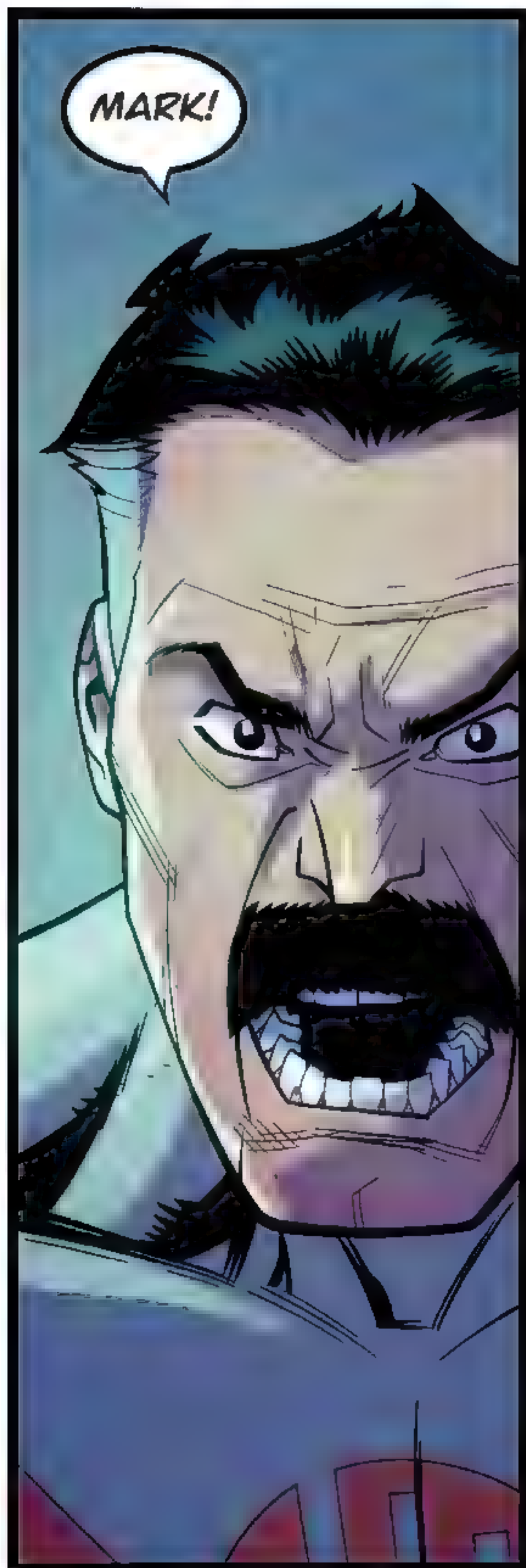
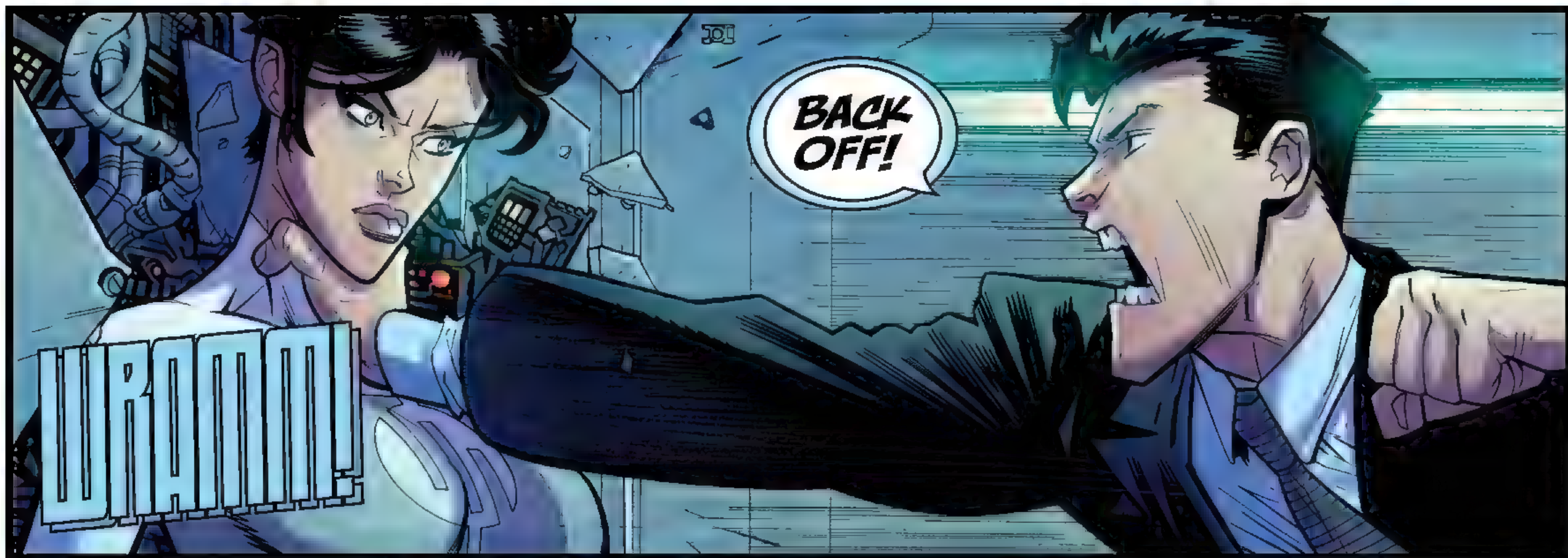
BUT
IS IT
FREE?

JESUS,
DAD.

DOING NOTHING IS
WHAT'S BEST FOR
EVERYONE. YOU,
ME, VILTRUMITES,
HUMANS... THE
SITUATION CHANGES...
WE'LL TALK. UNTIL
THEN, I'M DONE
WITH THIS.

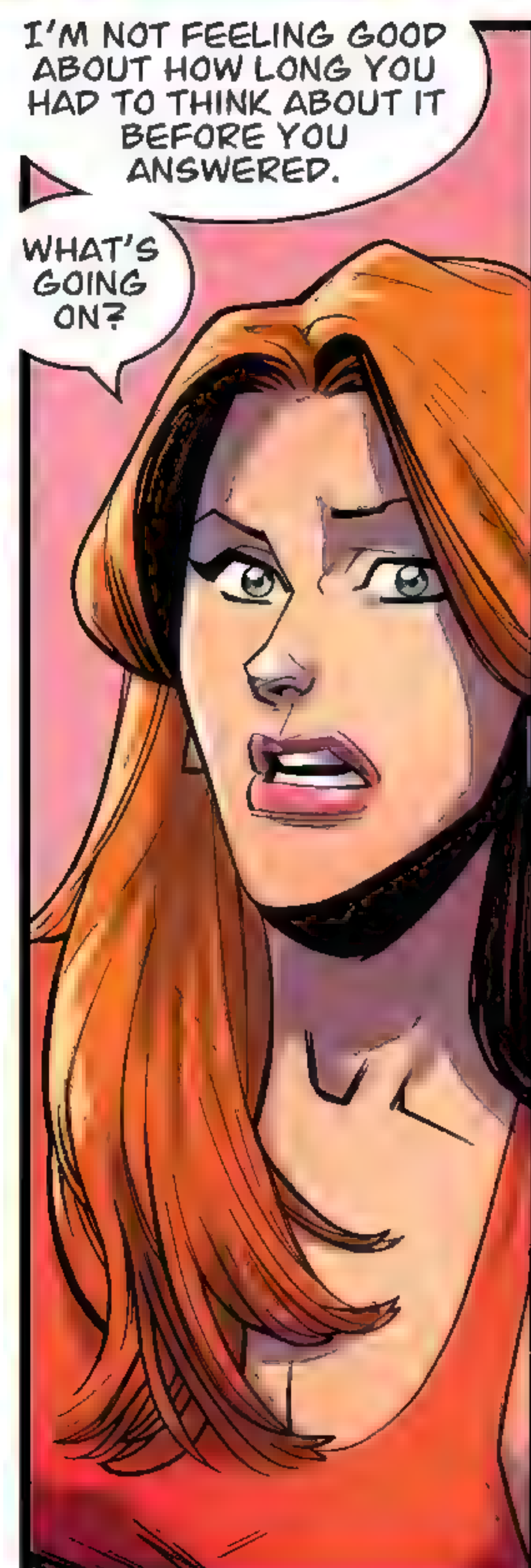
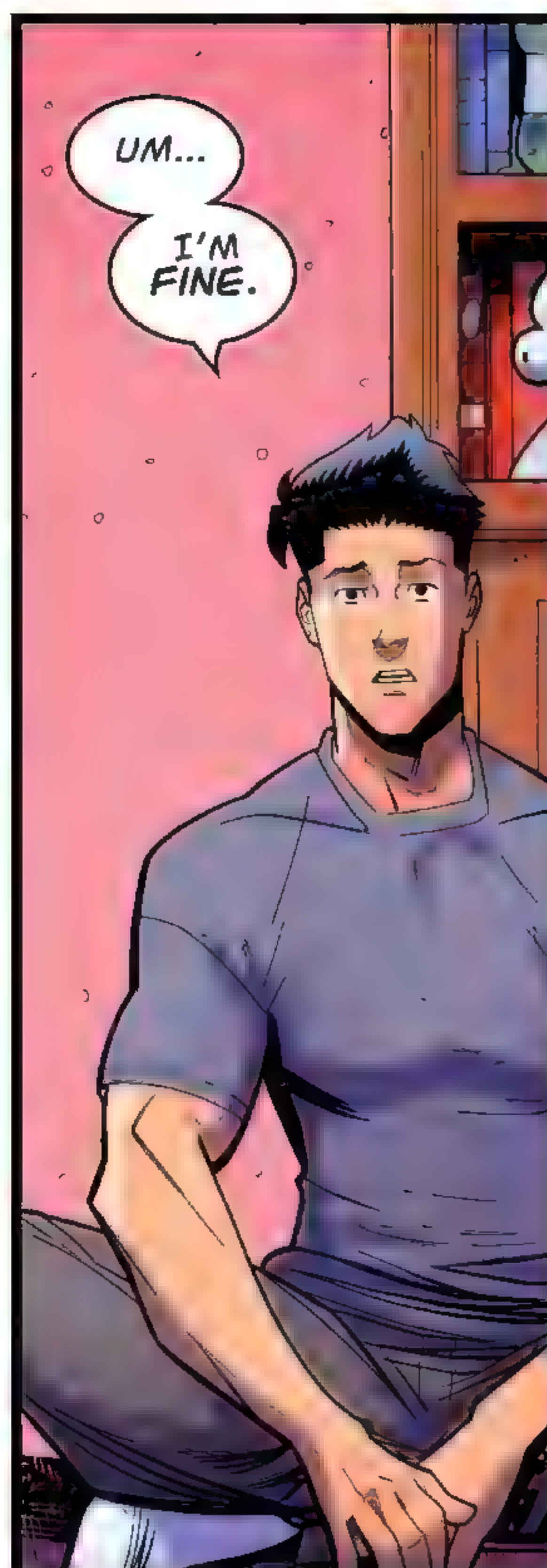
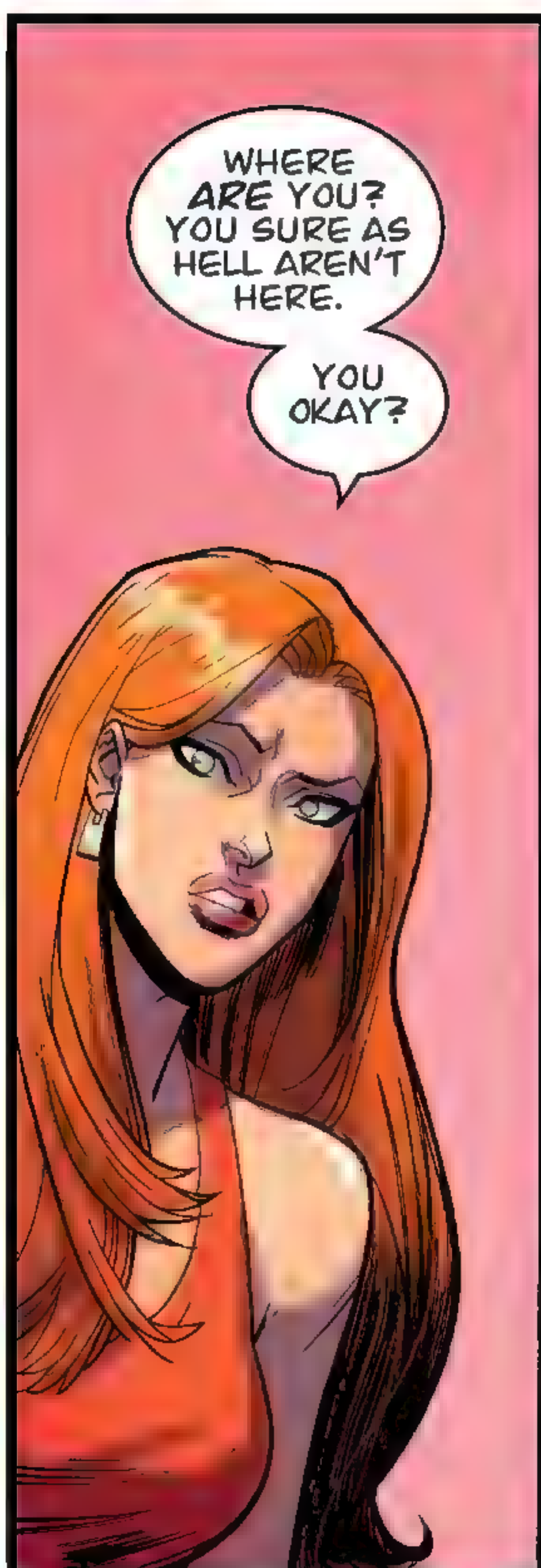
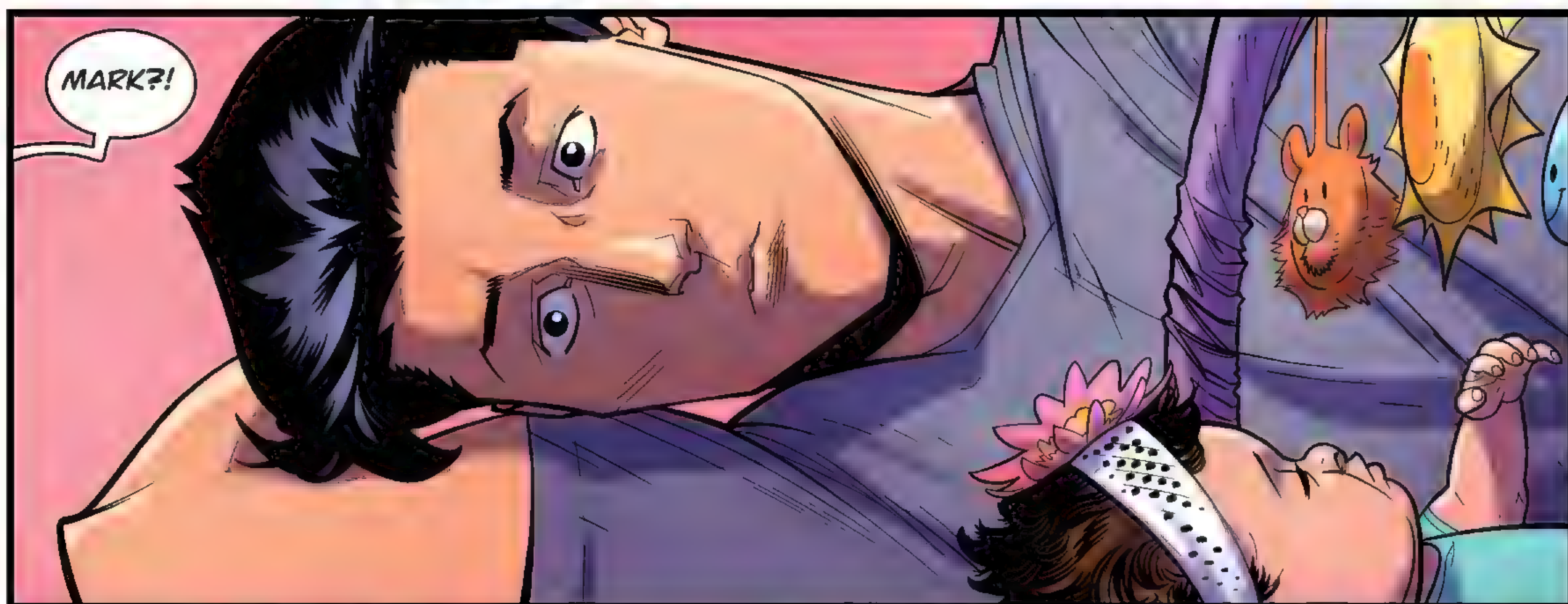
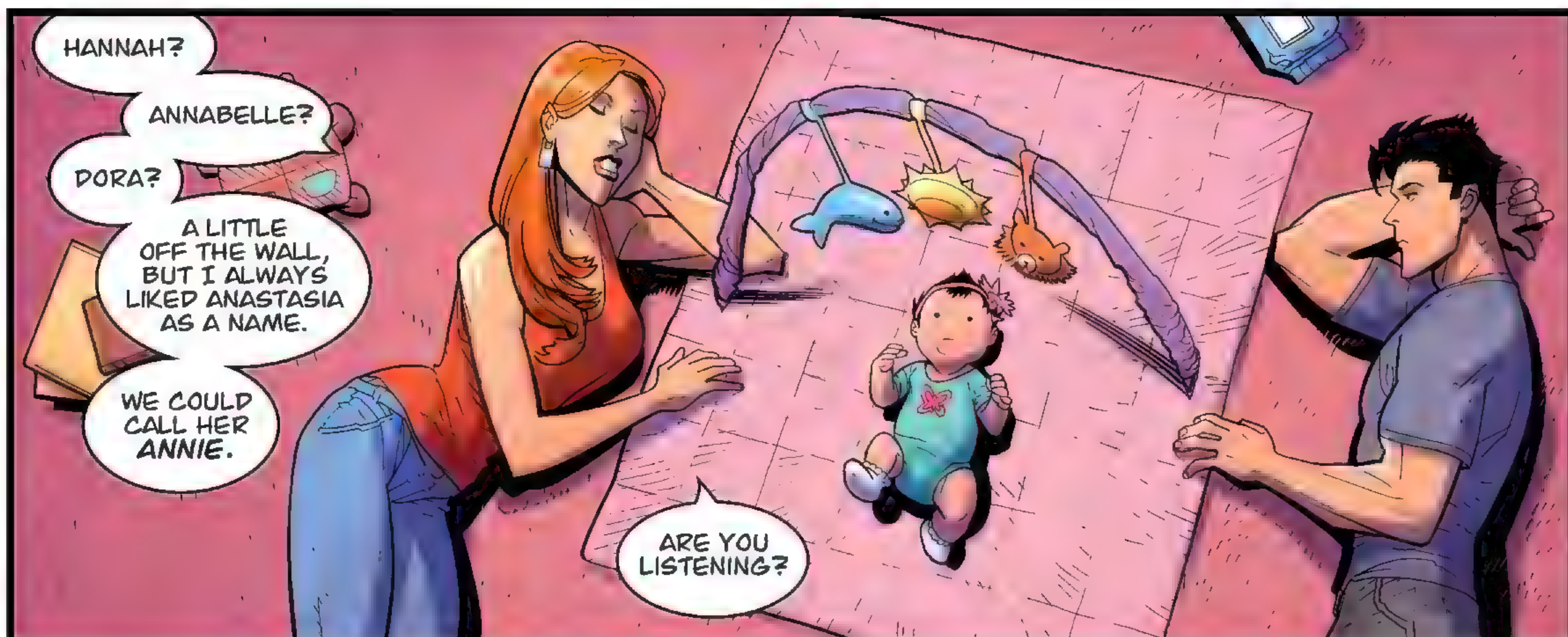
YOU TRY TO
FIX THINGS AND
YOU'RE ONLY GOING
TO GET YOURSELF
AND A WHOLE LOT OF
OTHER PEOPLE
KILLED.

SO NICE
RUNNING
INTO YOU
LIKE THIS...



ELSEWHERE.







I'M SORRY...
THERE'S JUST...
SO MUCH. I
DIDN'T MEAN TO
DRIFT OFF LIKE
THAT. IT JUST...
HAPPENS.

I LOVE YOU...
AND BEING BACK
TOGETHER, WITH
OUR DAUGHTER, IT'S
REALLY DRIVEN
HOME HOW MUCH I
WANT THIS... THIS...
IT FEELS RIGHT,
YOU KNOW?

AND I GET
IT... I REALLY DO.
IN ORDER TO HAVE
THIS... I CAN'T BE
DOING **THAT**. NO MORE
RUSHING OUT TO SAVE
THE WORLD, GETTING
LOST IN A PARALLEL
DIMENSION.

I'M A
FATHER
NOW. I HAVE
TO BE A
FATHER.



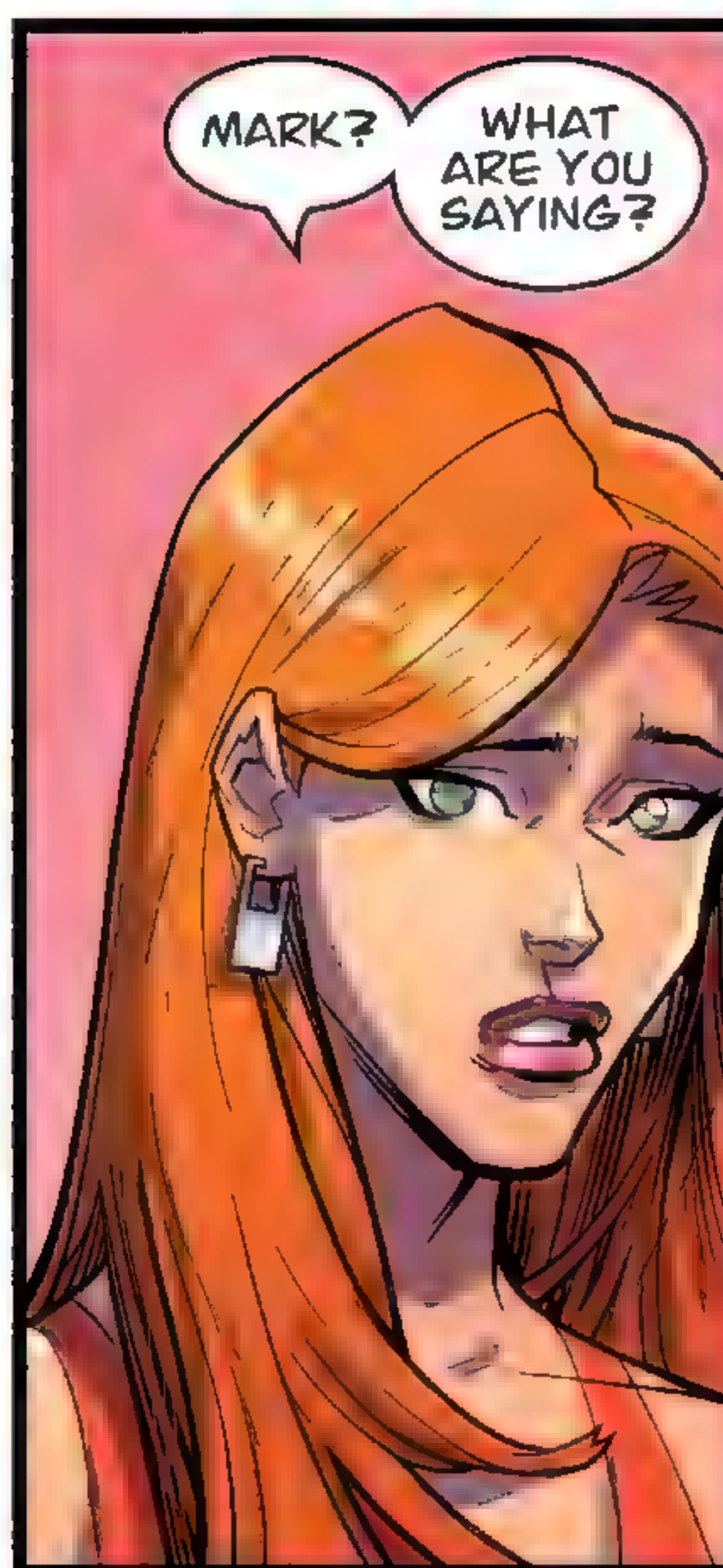
BUT...?



IT'S JUST... I'M OLD
ENOUGH TO KNOW WHO
I AM. YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN?

I'M ALWAYS
GOING TO CHOOSE
WHAT'S "RIGHT"
OVER WHAT'S RIGHT
FOR US.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I
DON'T WANT
TO DO THAT.



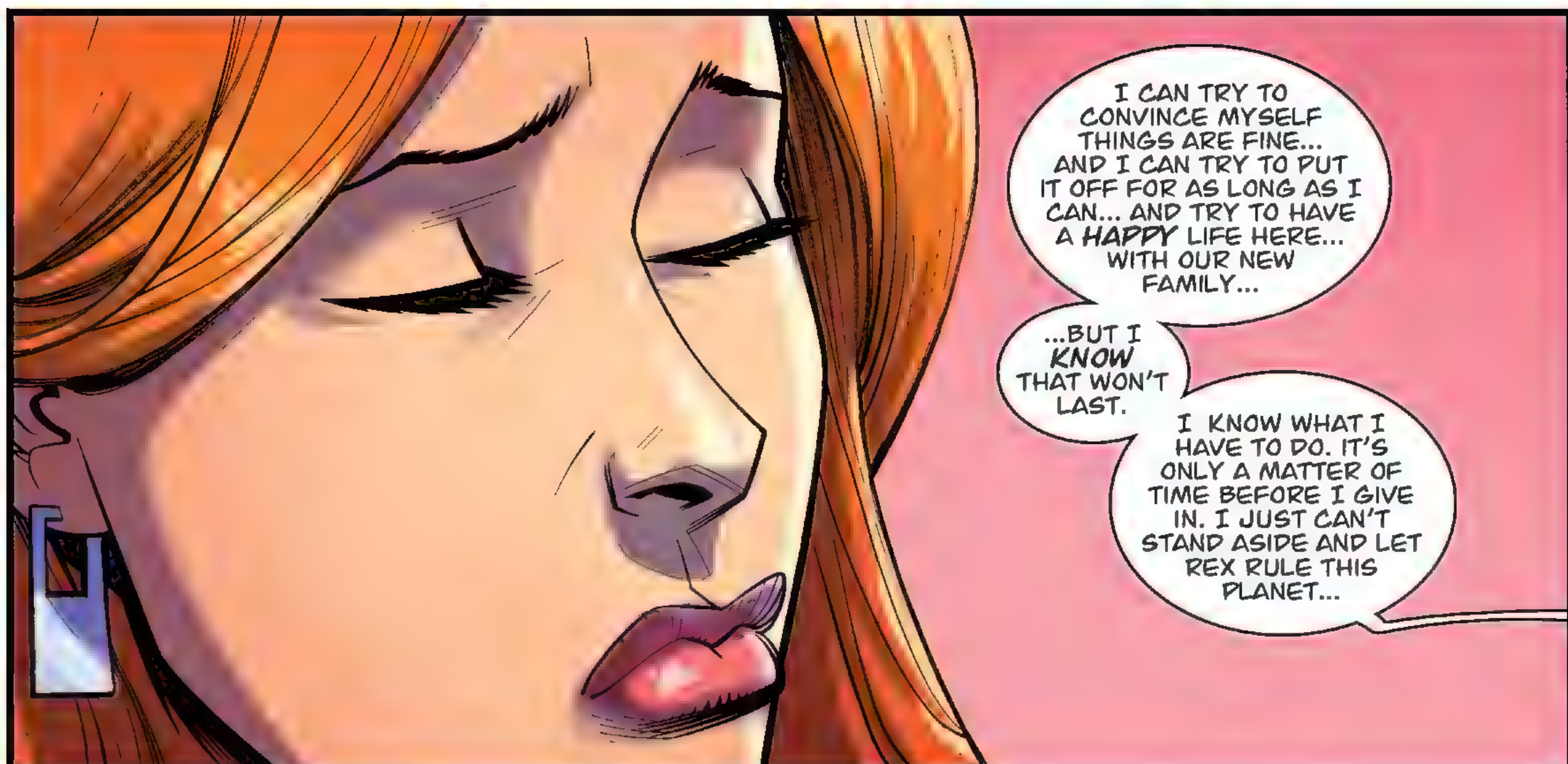
MARK?

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



I CAN'T BE HERE... AND JUST
IGNORE WHAT'S HAPPENING
OUT THERE. WITH REX IN
CHARGE, RUNNING
THINGS...

I KNOW
WHERE
THIS IS
GOING.



I CAN TRY TO
CONVINCE MYSELF
THINGS ARE FINE...
AND I CAN TRY TO PUT
IT OFF FOR AS LONG AS I
CAN... AND TRY TO HAVE
A **HAPPY** LIFE HERE...
WITH OUR NEW
FAMILY...

...BUT I
KNOW
THAT WON'T
LAST.

I KNOW WHAT I
HAVE TO DO. IT'S
ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE I GIVE
IN. I JUST CAN'T
STAND ASIDE AND LET
REX RULE THIS
PLANET...



...SO I
THINK WE'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO
LEAVE IT.



CHAPTER THREE





I HONESTLY CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KEPT MY PULL BOX OPEN. IT'S BEEN... OVER A YEAR SINCE I CAME IN.

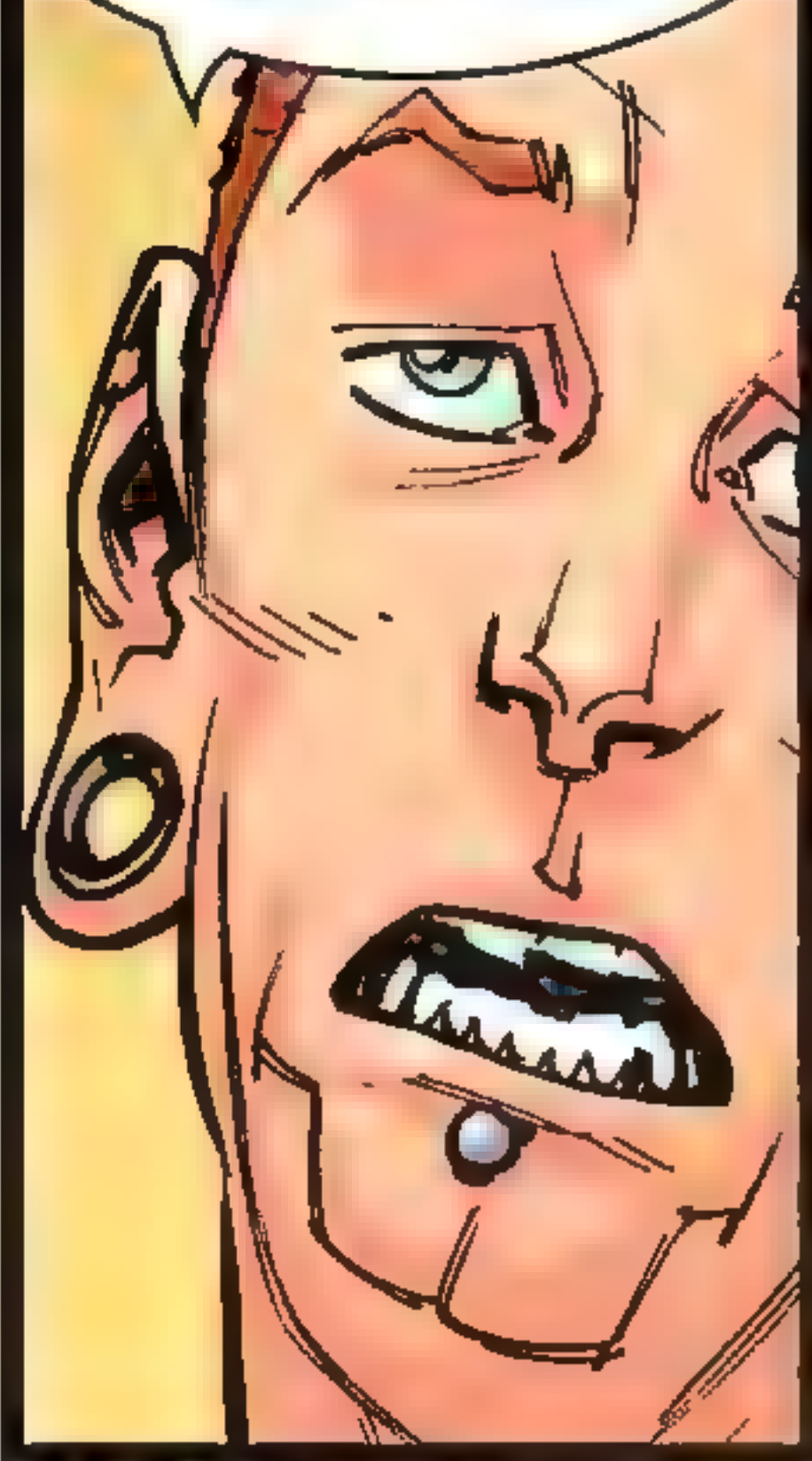
ALMOST TWO. FULL DISCLOSURE, I STOPPED BUYING SCIENCE DOG AND I'VE BEEN READING YOUR COPIES... THAT'S WHY I KEPT IT OPEN. MY BOSS NEVER NOTICED.

WELL, HUH... THANKS. IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE A WHILE BEFORE I COME IN AGAIN... SO... ENJOY.

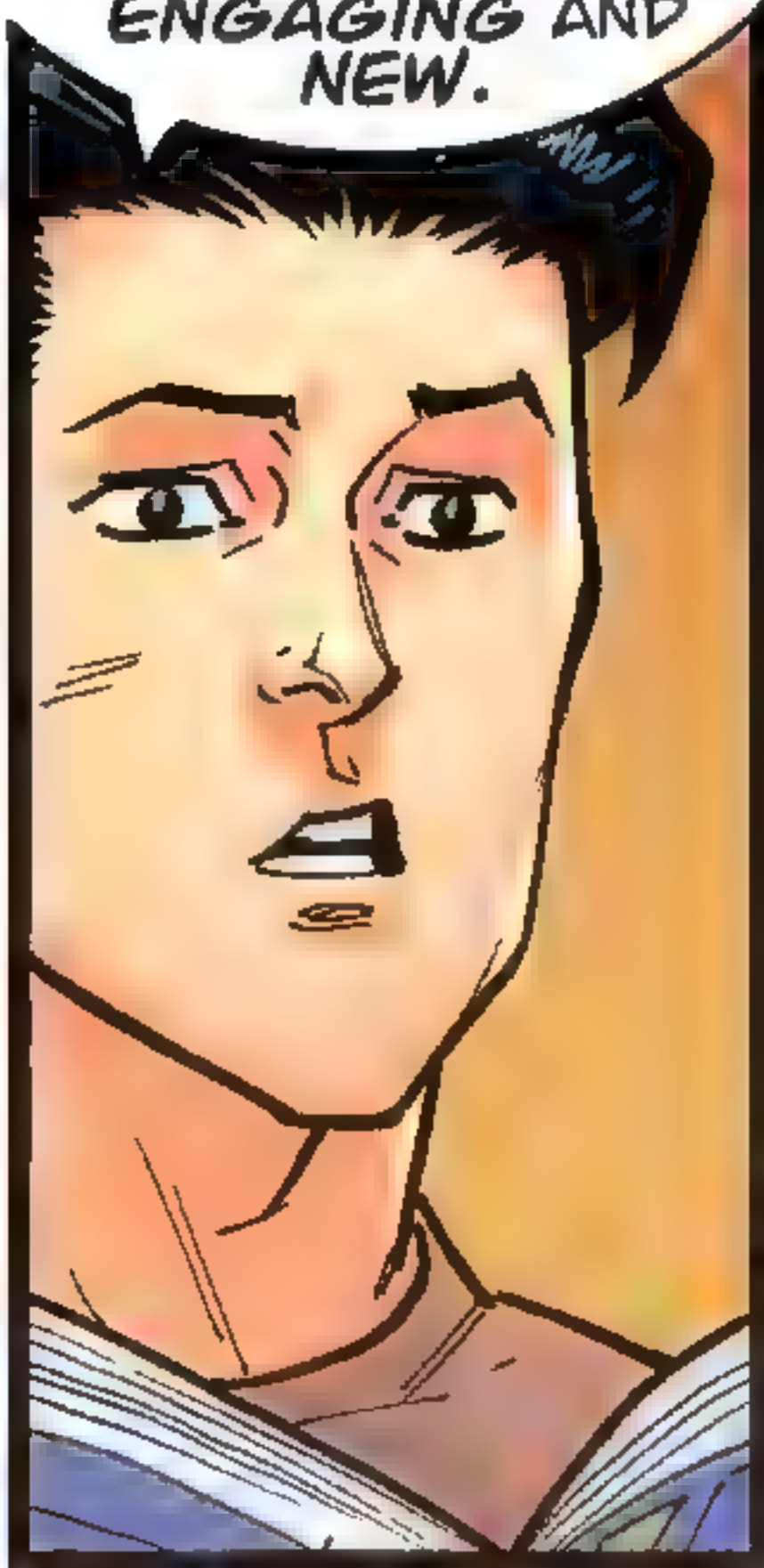


HOLY CRAP, IS SCIENCE DOG A WOMAN NOW?

NOT EXACTLY. SCIENCE DOG IS STILL IN THE BOOK, BUT NOW THE FOCUS IS ON HIS ALTERNATE DIMENSION SISTER. IT'S A WEIRD CHOICE, BUT STILL PRETTY COOL.



MAN, I HATE IT WHEN A BOOK HAS BEEN GOING FOR OVER A DECADE AND THEY START CHANGING THINGS SO DRASTICALLY TO KEEP THE STORY ENGAGING AND NEW.



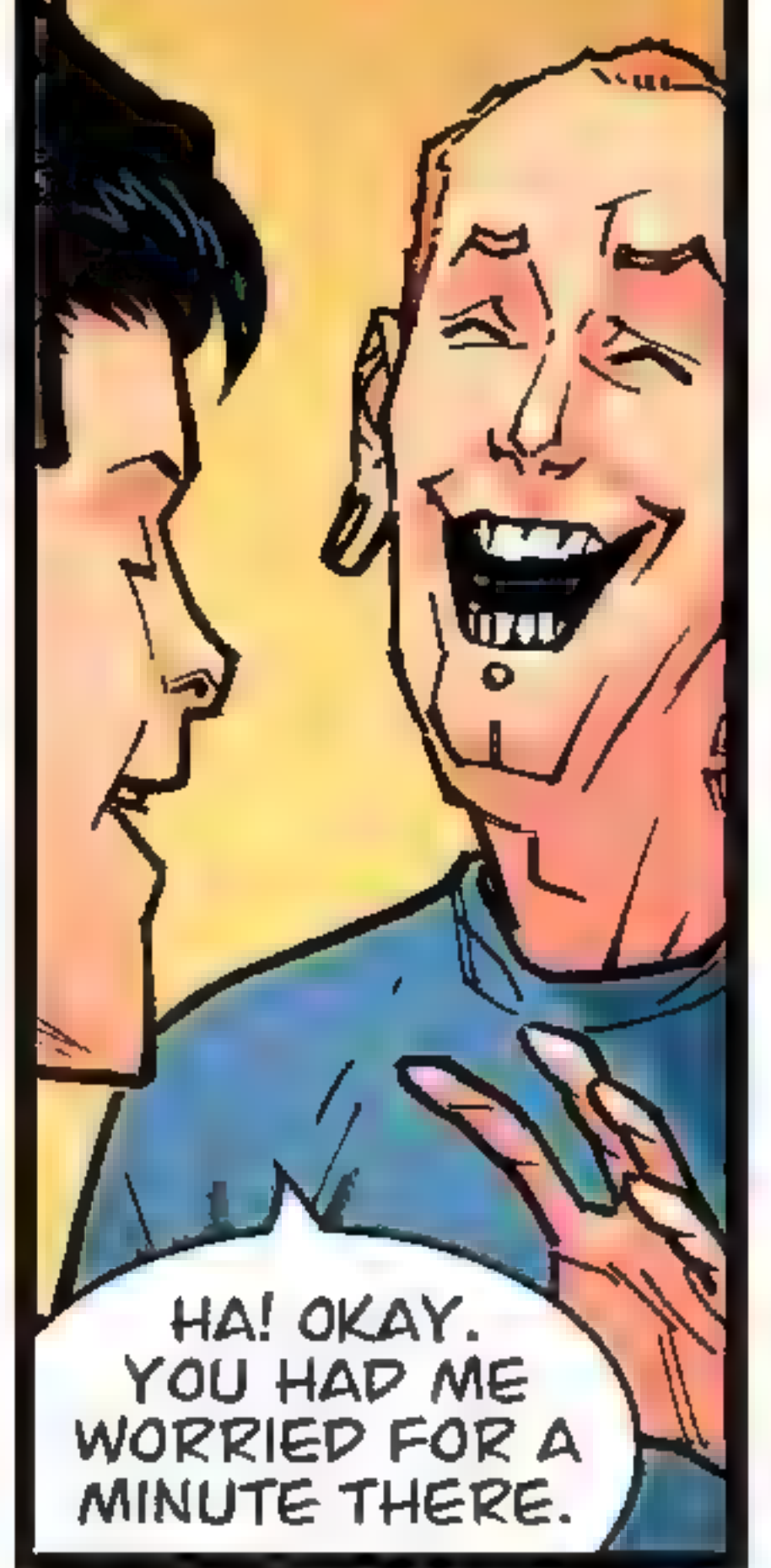
SURE, IT HAS A CHANCE OF KEEPING THINGS INTERESTING... BUT IT'S JUST AS LIKELY TO ALIENATE THE DEDICATED READERS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED YOU ALL THESE YEARS.



I HEAR YOU... I HATE CHANGE. THAT'S WHY I MOSTLY READ THE CORPORATE COMICS. GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN... SAME BAD GUYS ALWAYS COME BACK. IT'S COMFORTING.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

HELL NO! THOSE COMICS BLOW!

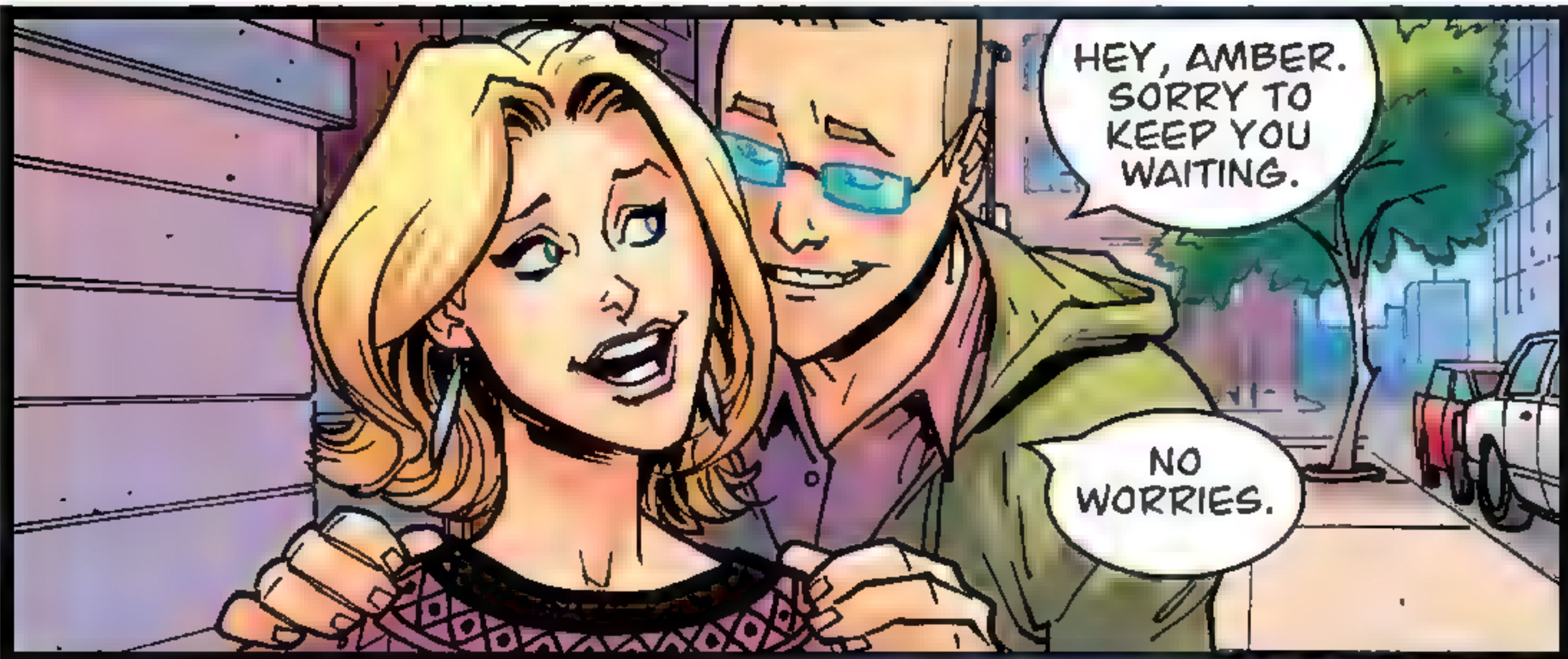
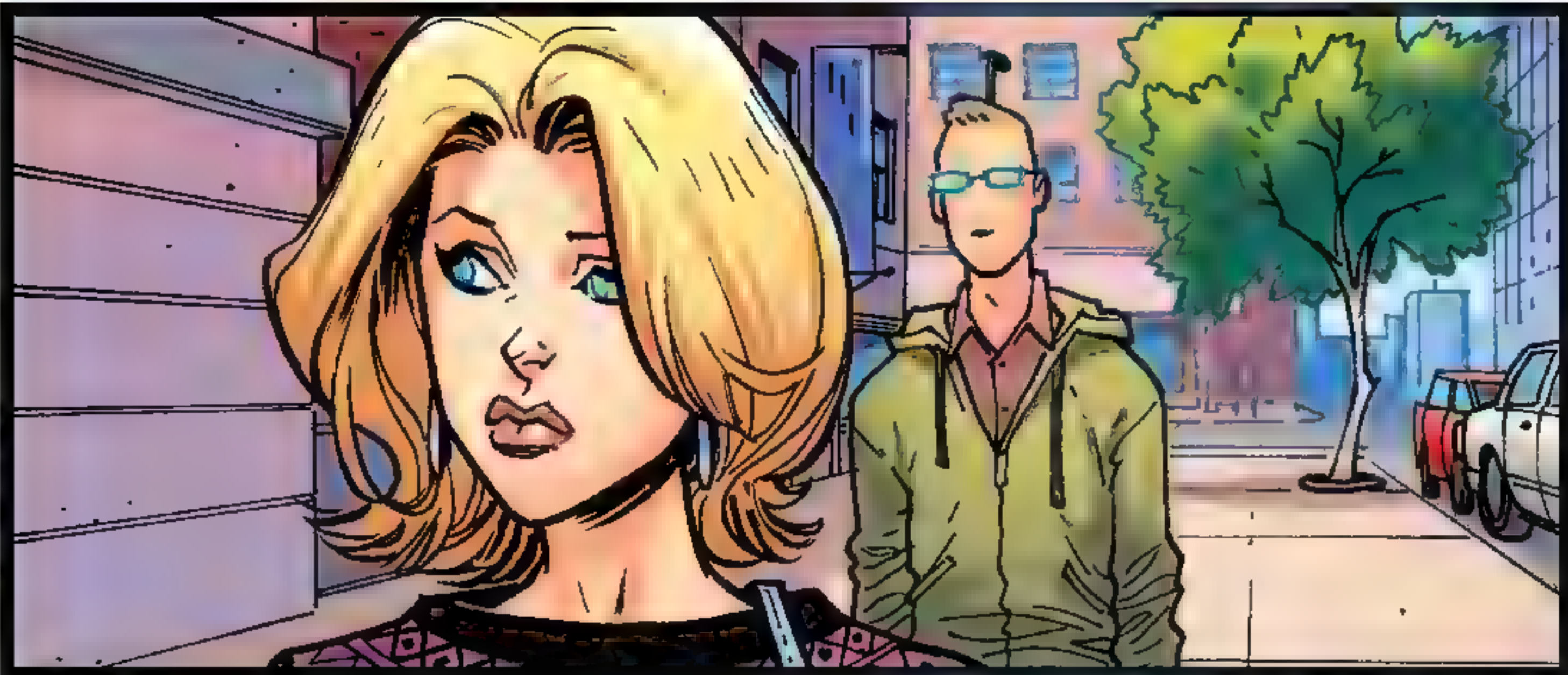


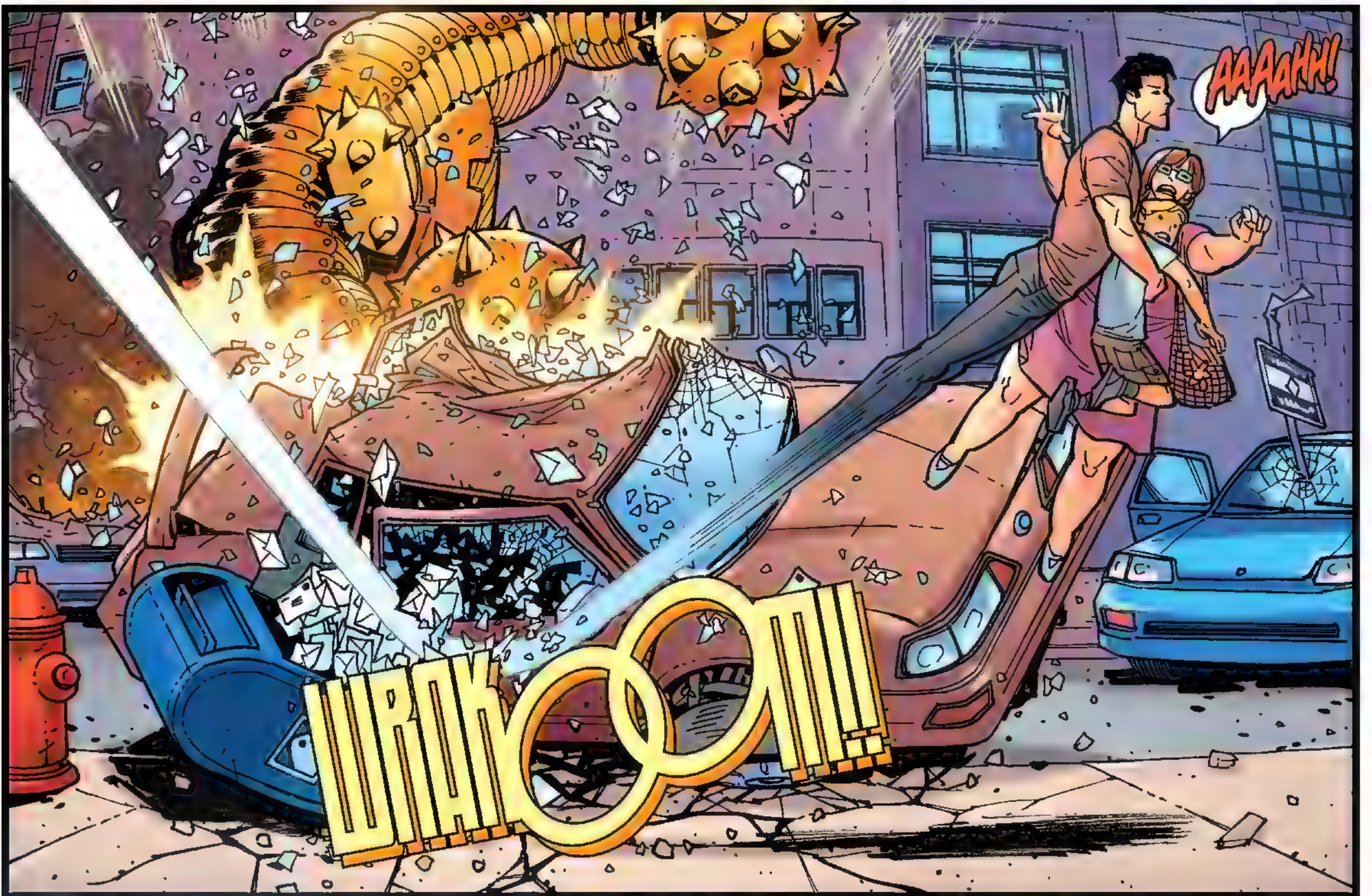
HA! OKAY. YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR A MINUTE THERE.

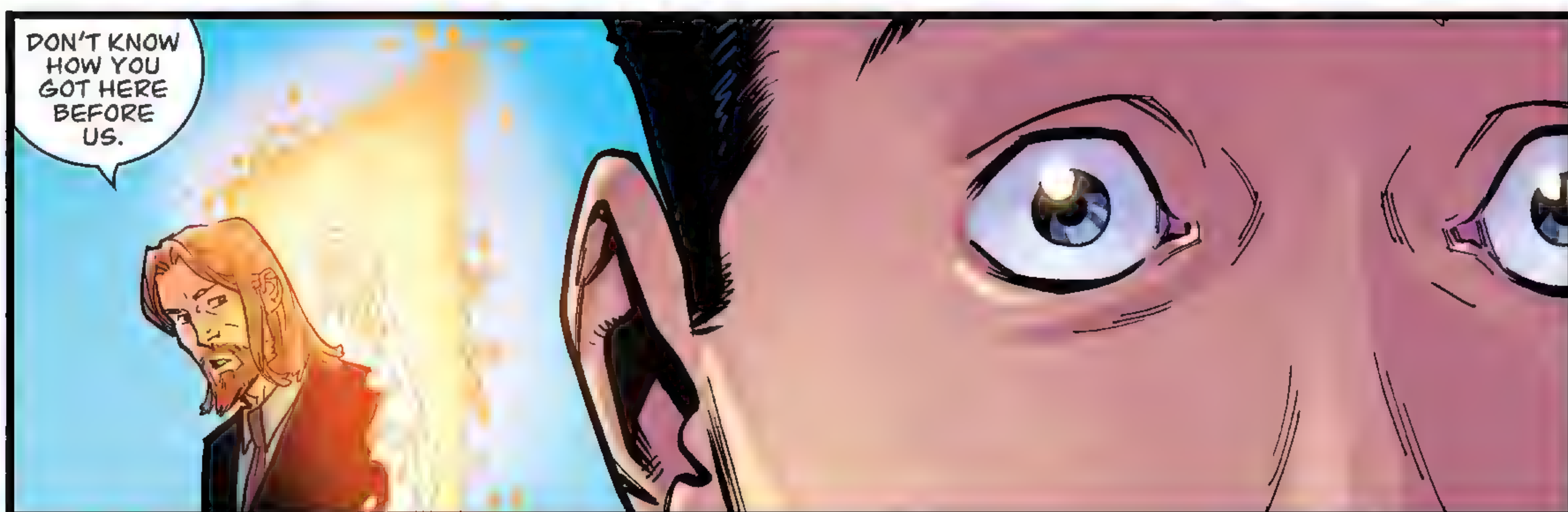
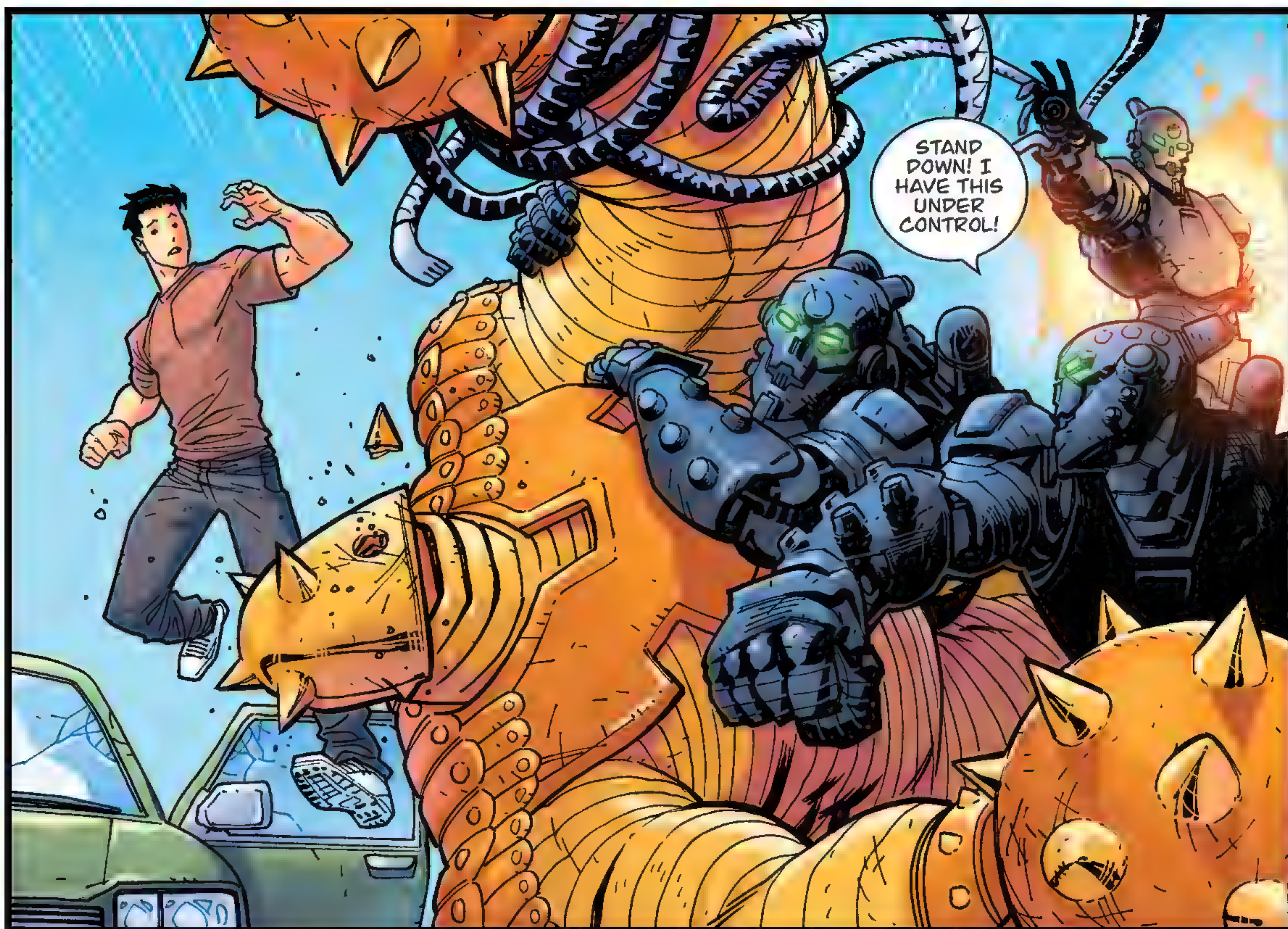


I'M REALLY EXCITED TO GET TO SIT DOWN AND READ SUCH A BIG CHUNK OF ISSUES.

WELL, THERE'D BE WAY MORE THAN THAT IF THOSE JERKS COULD BE BOTHERED TO PUT THE BOOK OUT ON TIME.







THAT WAS THE
WHOLE POINT OF
ALL THIS, MARK.
TO HAVE SOMEONE
IN CHARGE WHO
COULD BE
ON TOP OF
THINGS.

EVEN
YOU HAVE TO
ADMIT THINGS
ARE... BETTER...
AREN'T
THEY?

YOU CAN BE IN DENIAL
ALL YOU WANT, BUT I
KNOW YOU'RE SMART
ENOUGH TO SEE
THE TRUTH.

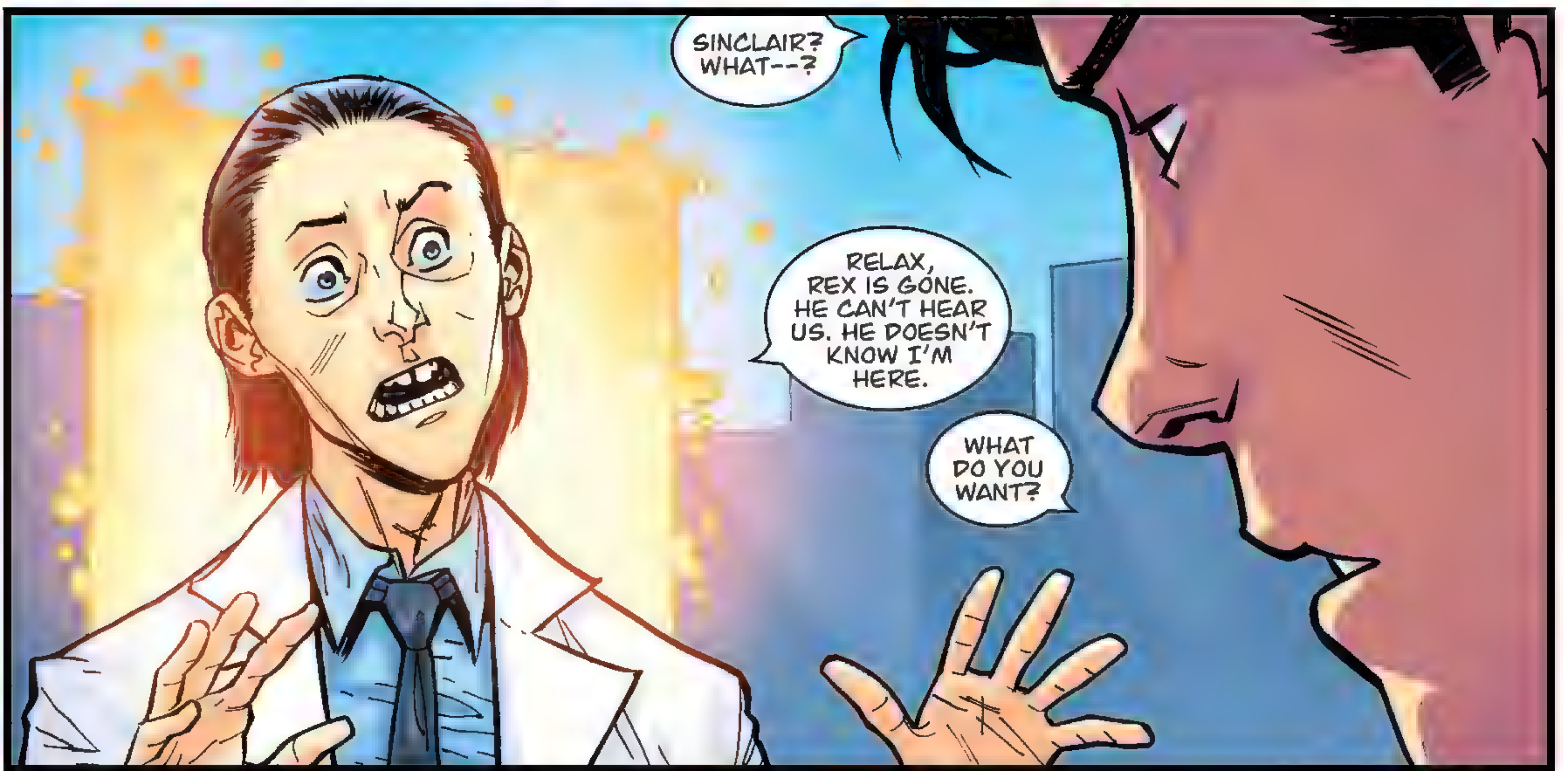
BEING HERE... STEPPING
IN... ARE YOU READY TO
WORK TOGETHER AGAIN?
HAVE YOU COME TO
MY SIDE OF
THINGS?

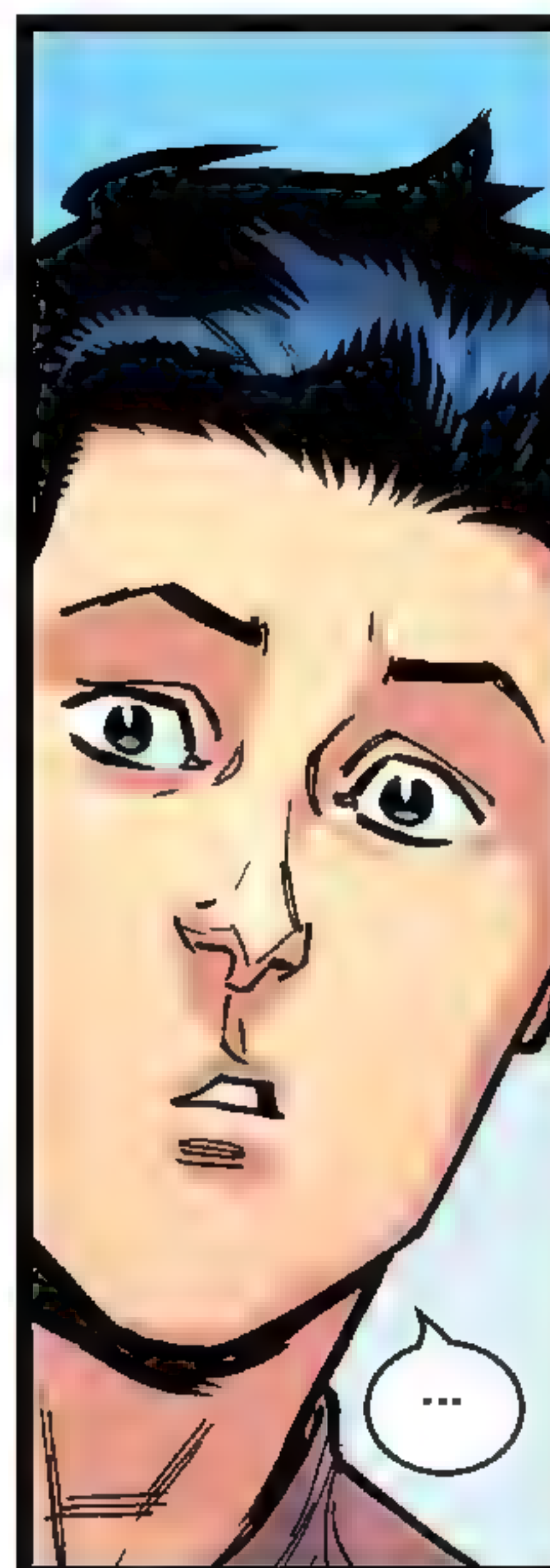
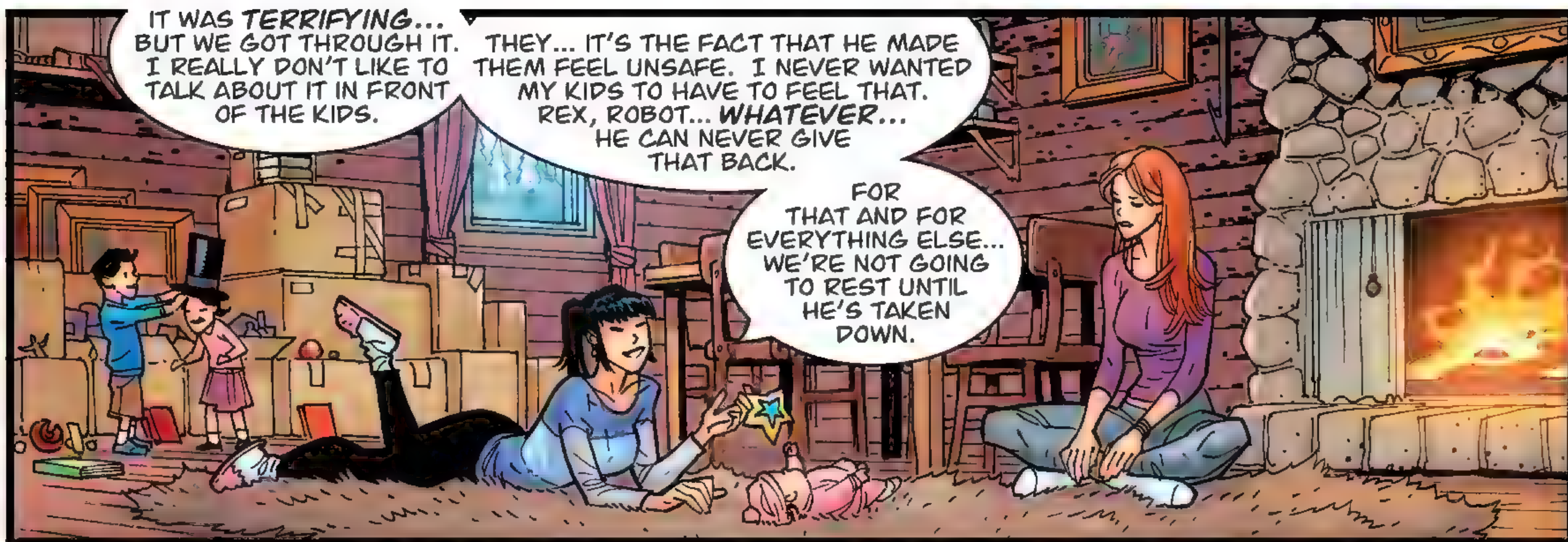
NO. YOU'RE
SMART ENOUGH
TO KNOW THAT
WILL NEVER
HAPPEN.

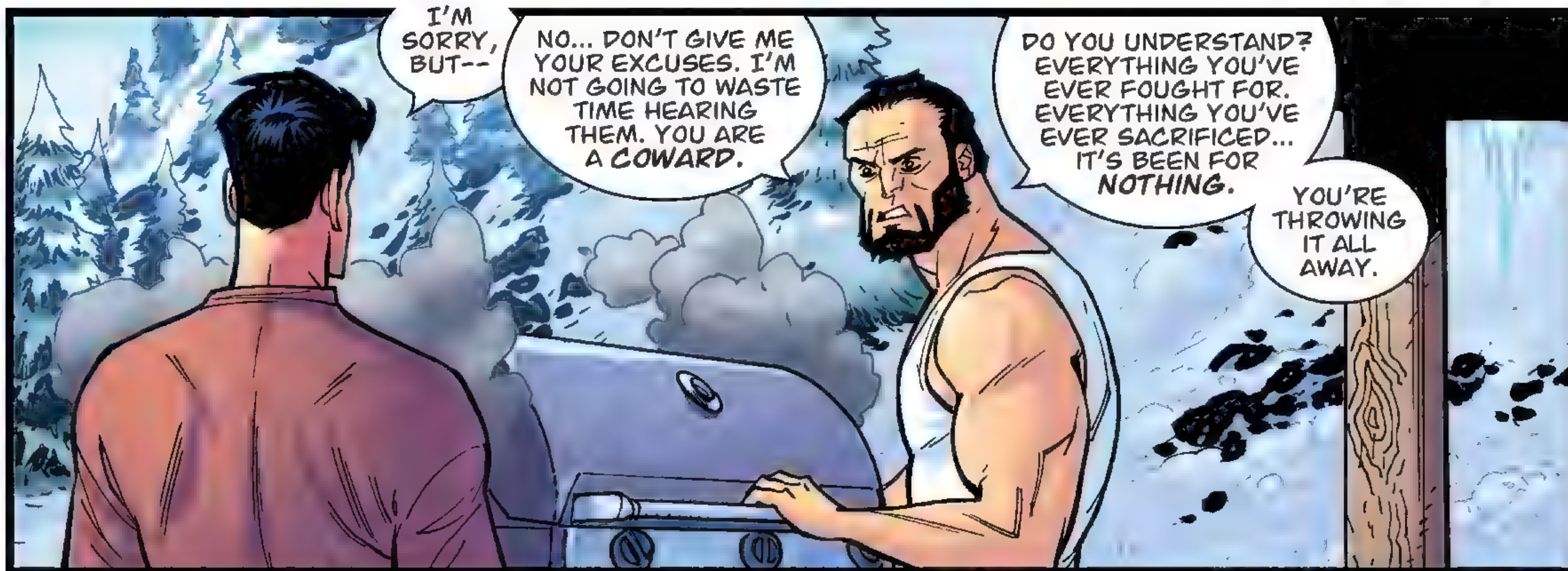
I DO FIND YOUR
RESISTANCE
TROUBLING. BUT
WE'LL GET ALONG
FINE AS LONG
AS YOU DON'T
INTERFERE.

WOOOSH!

STRIKE A
NERVE?







I'M
SORRY,
BUT---

NO... DON'T GIVE ME
YOUR EXCUSES. I'M
NOT GOING TO WASTE
TIME HEARING
THEM. YOU ARE
A COWARD.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
EVER FOUGHT FOR.
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
EVER SACRIFICED...
IT'S BEEN FOR
NOTHING.

YOU'RE
THROWING
IT ALL
AWAY.



OH, THAT'S
BULLSHIT AND
YOU KNOW IT. EVE
AND I HAVE A
CHILD NOW. I'VE
GOT A LOT MORE
RESPONSIBILITY.

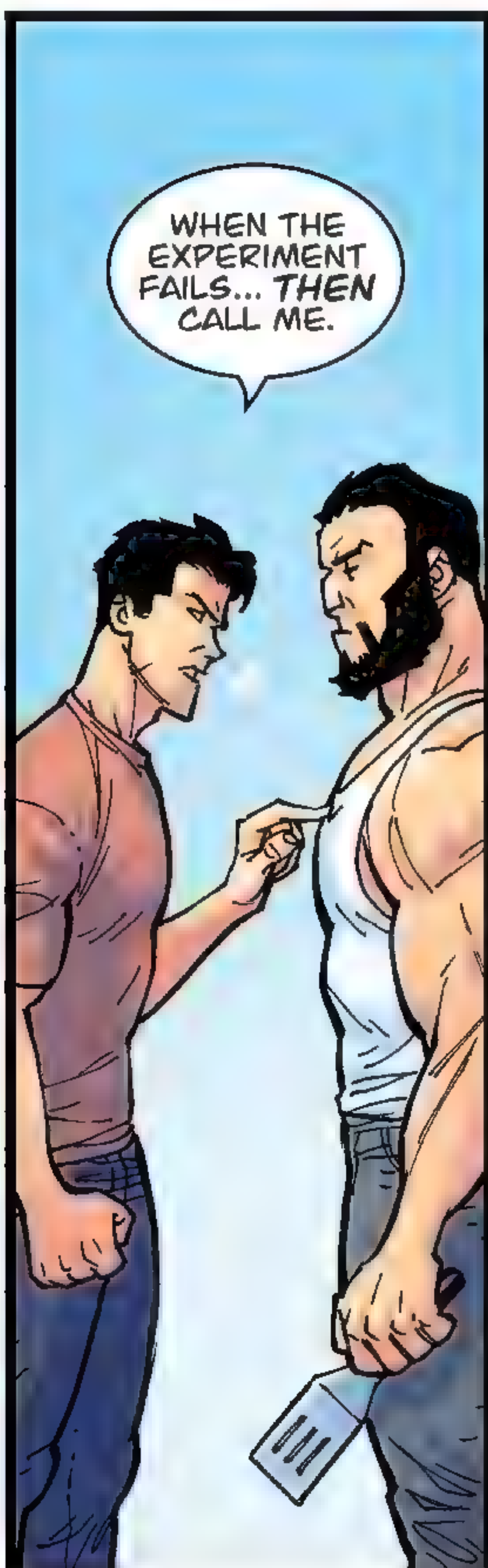
HOW MUCH
TIME DID YOU
TAKE OFF? HOW
MANY BATTLES DID
YOU AND KATE
SIT OUT WHILE YOU
WERE PLAYING
MOM AND
DAD?

EVE AND
I DON'T GET
TO BE HAPPY?
IT'S JUST
YOU?

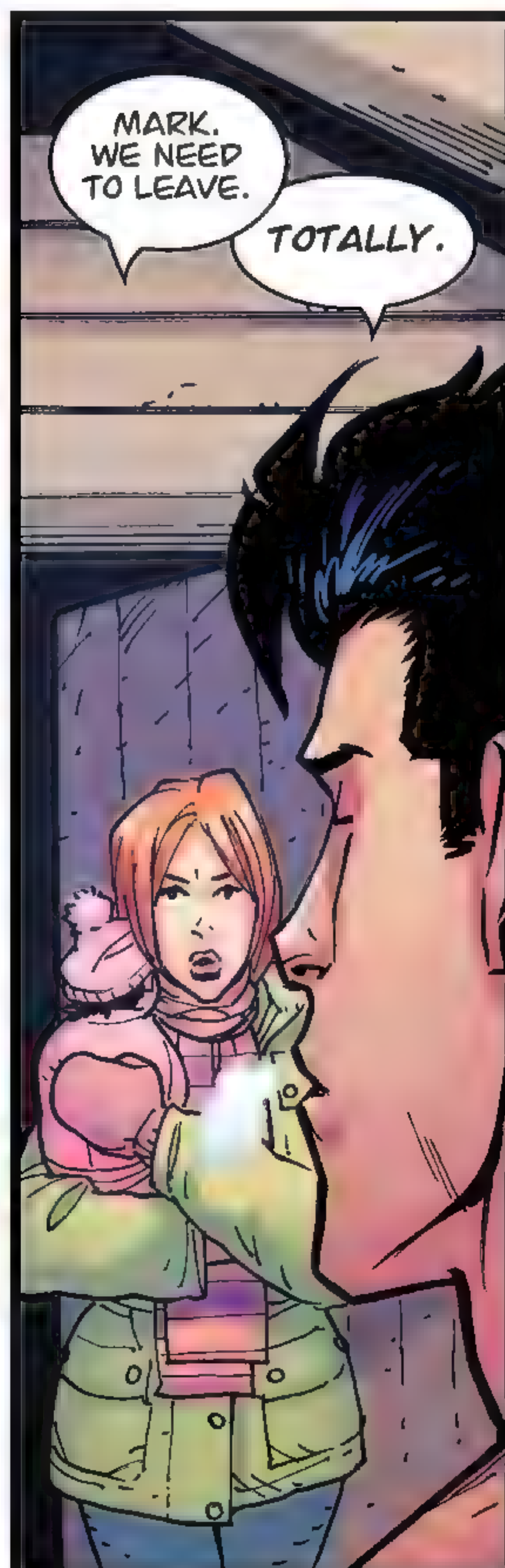


I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO YOU, IF YOU
GOT BORED... OR IF YOU
JUST FEEL GUILTY, BUT
I'M NOT RISKING MY LIFE
OR MY FAMILY TO PUT
THINGS BACK
TO NORMAL.

I DON'T
TRUST HIM
EITHER... BUT
IT'S JUST NOT
WORTH IT
TO ME.



WHEN THE
EXPERIMENT
FAILS... THEN
CALL ME.



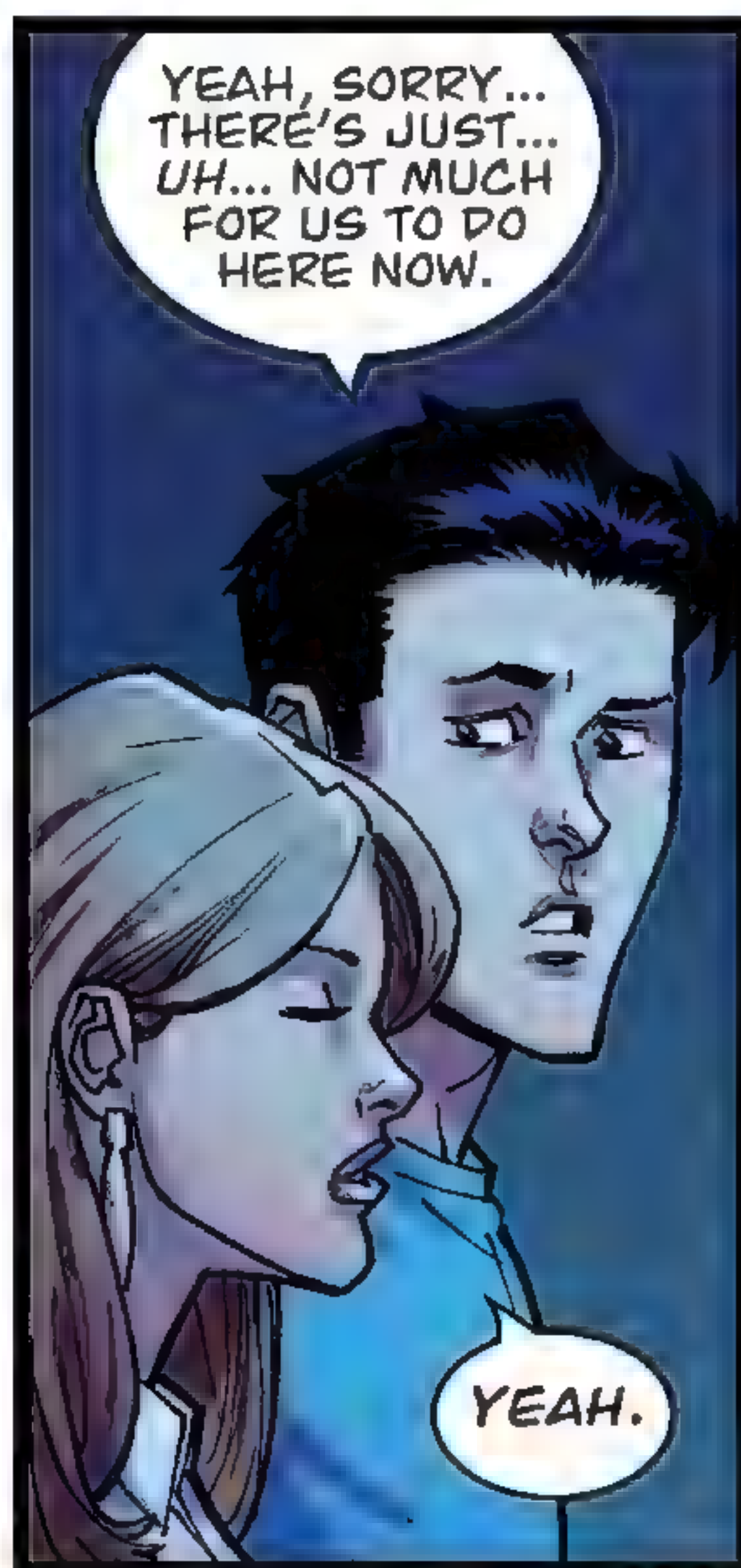
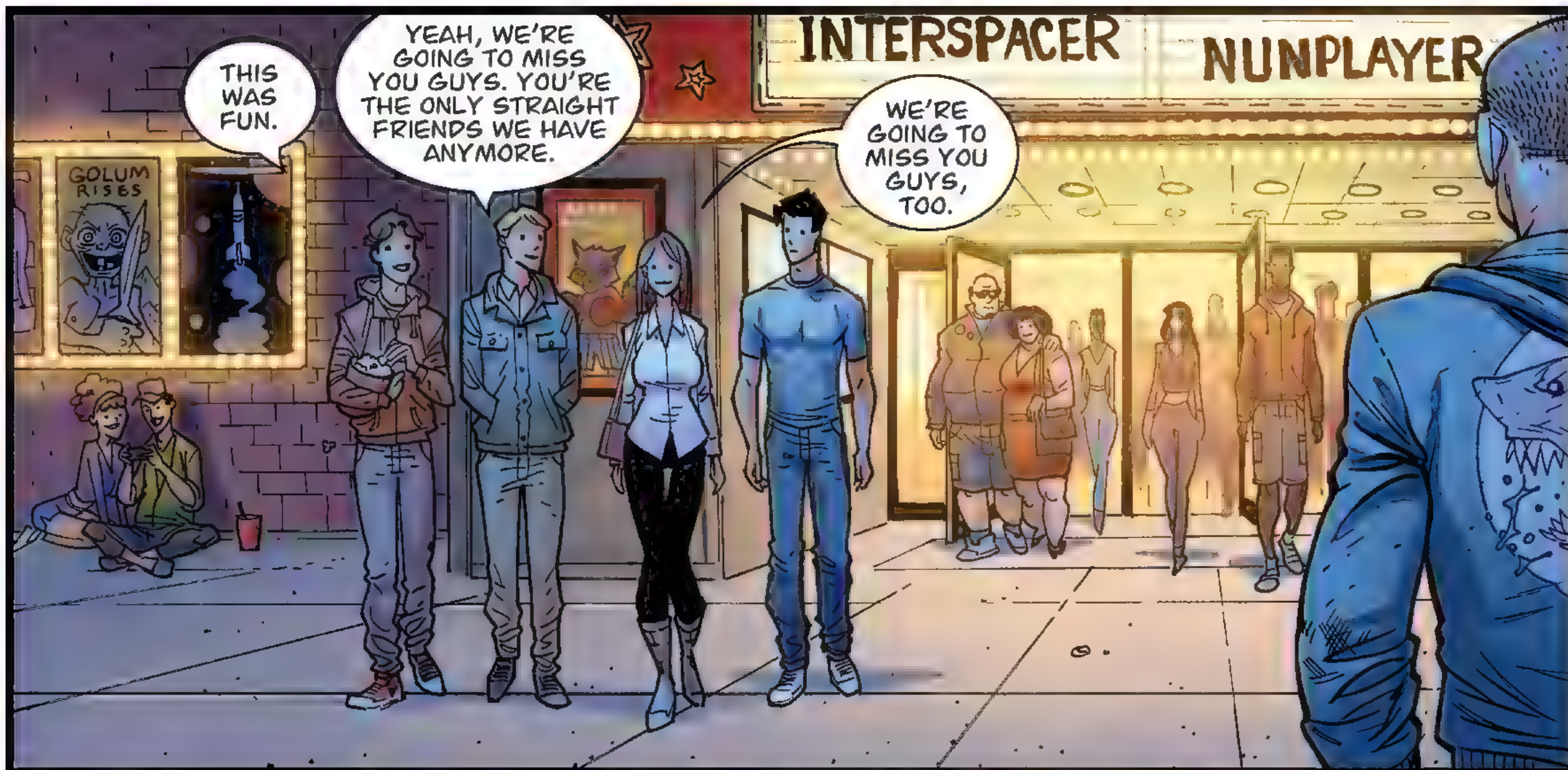
MARK.
WE NEED
TO LEAVE.

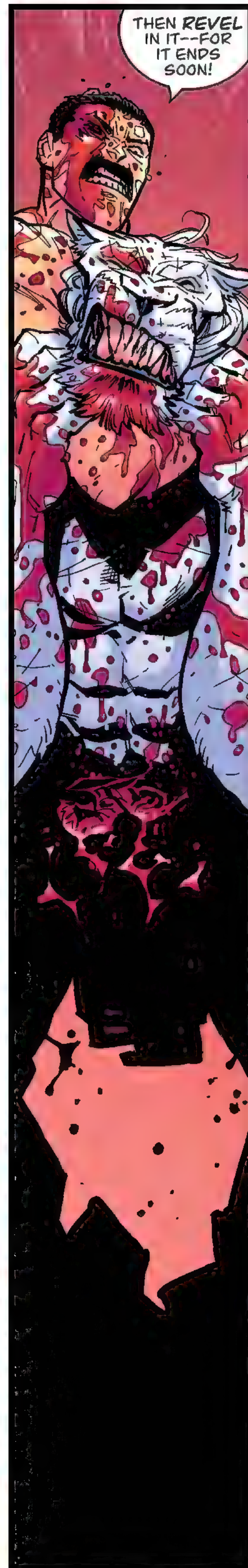
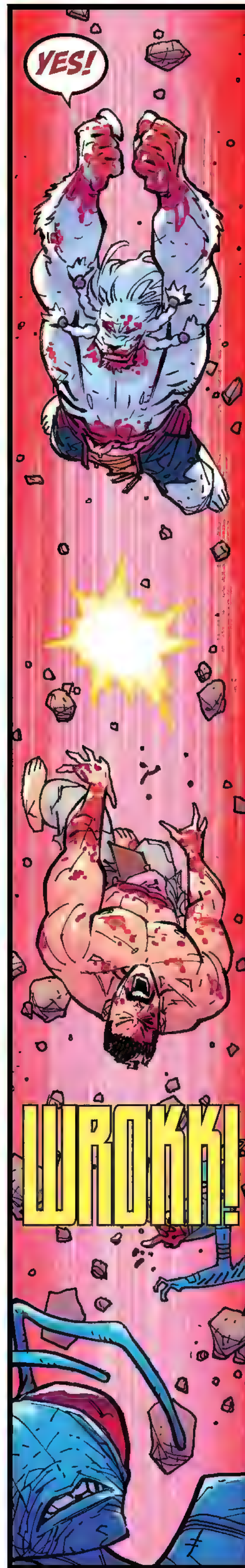
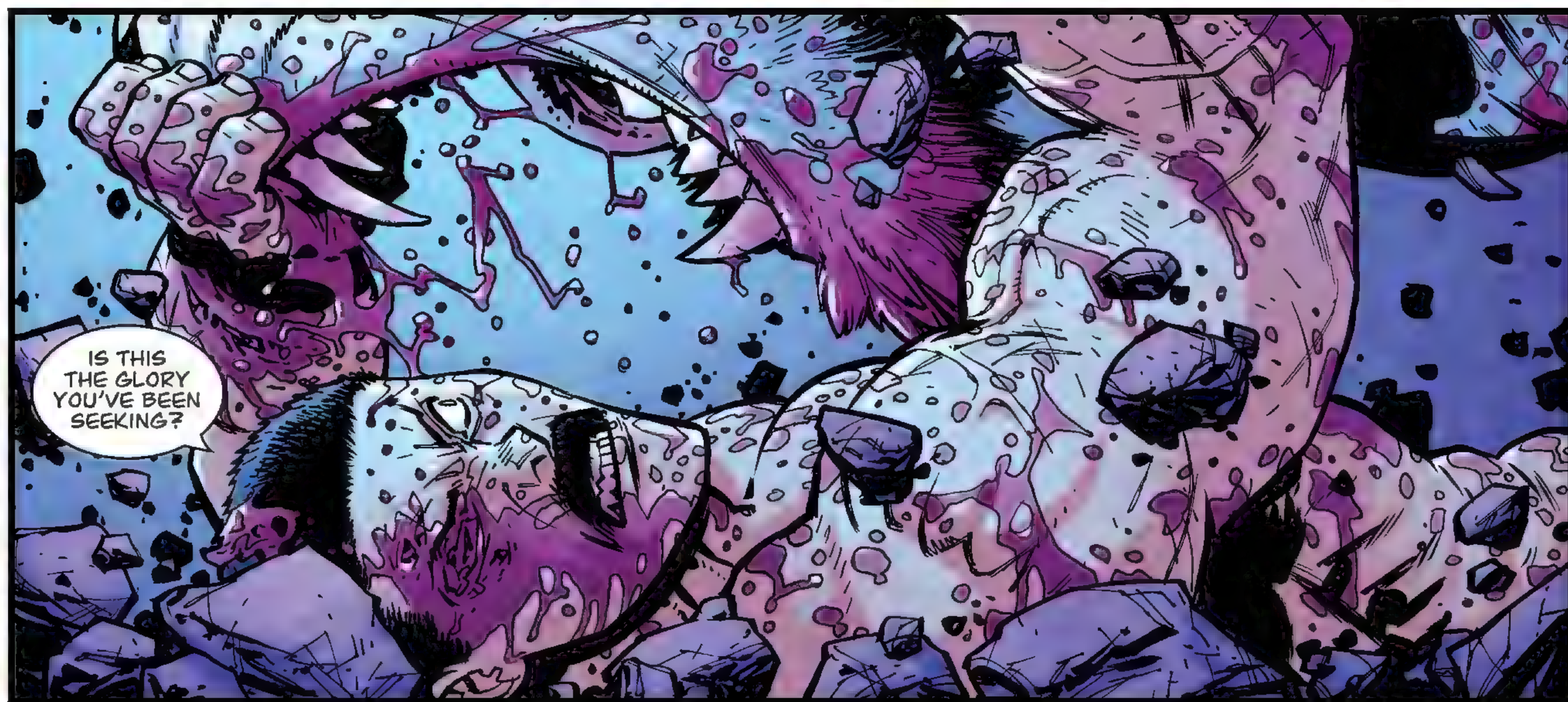
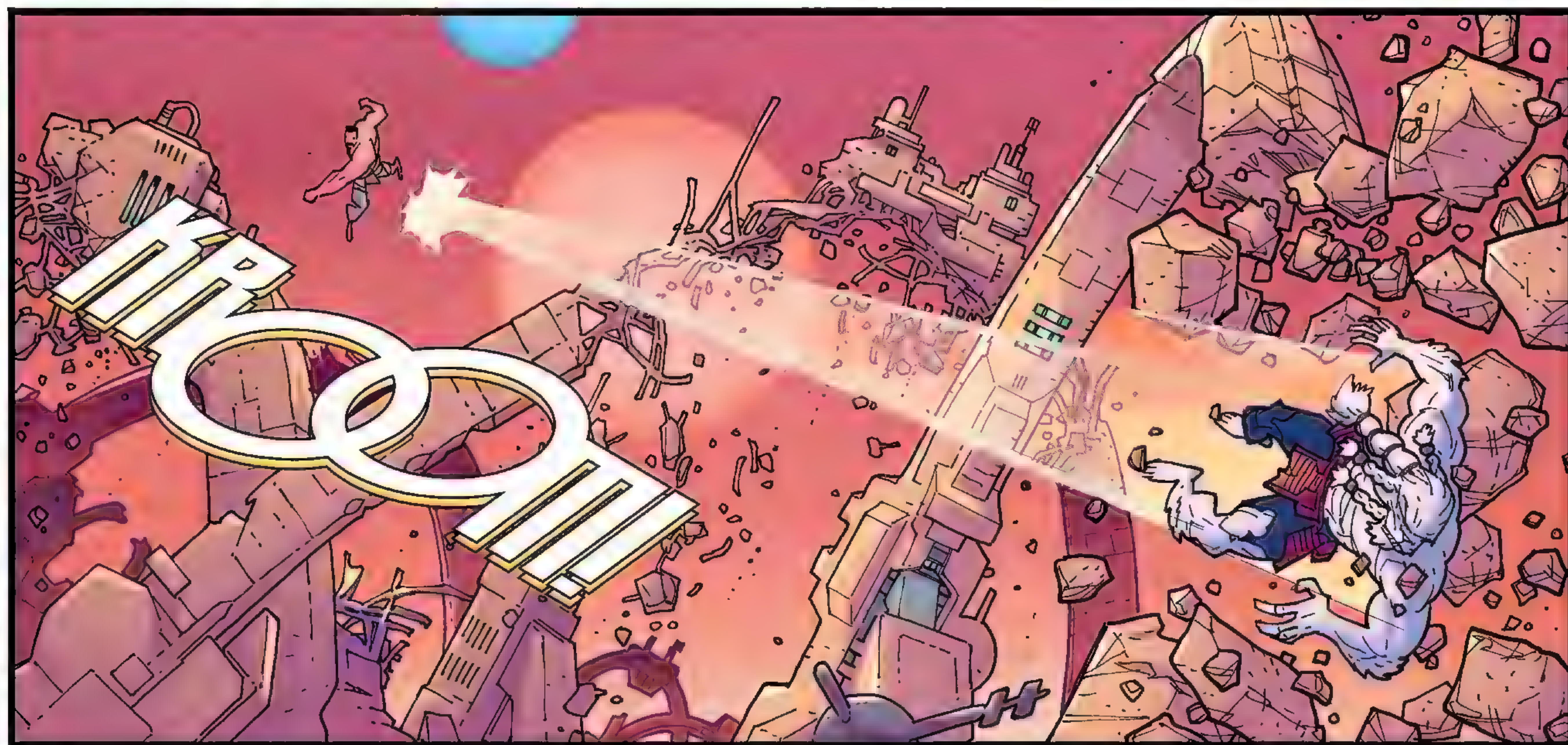
TOTALLY.

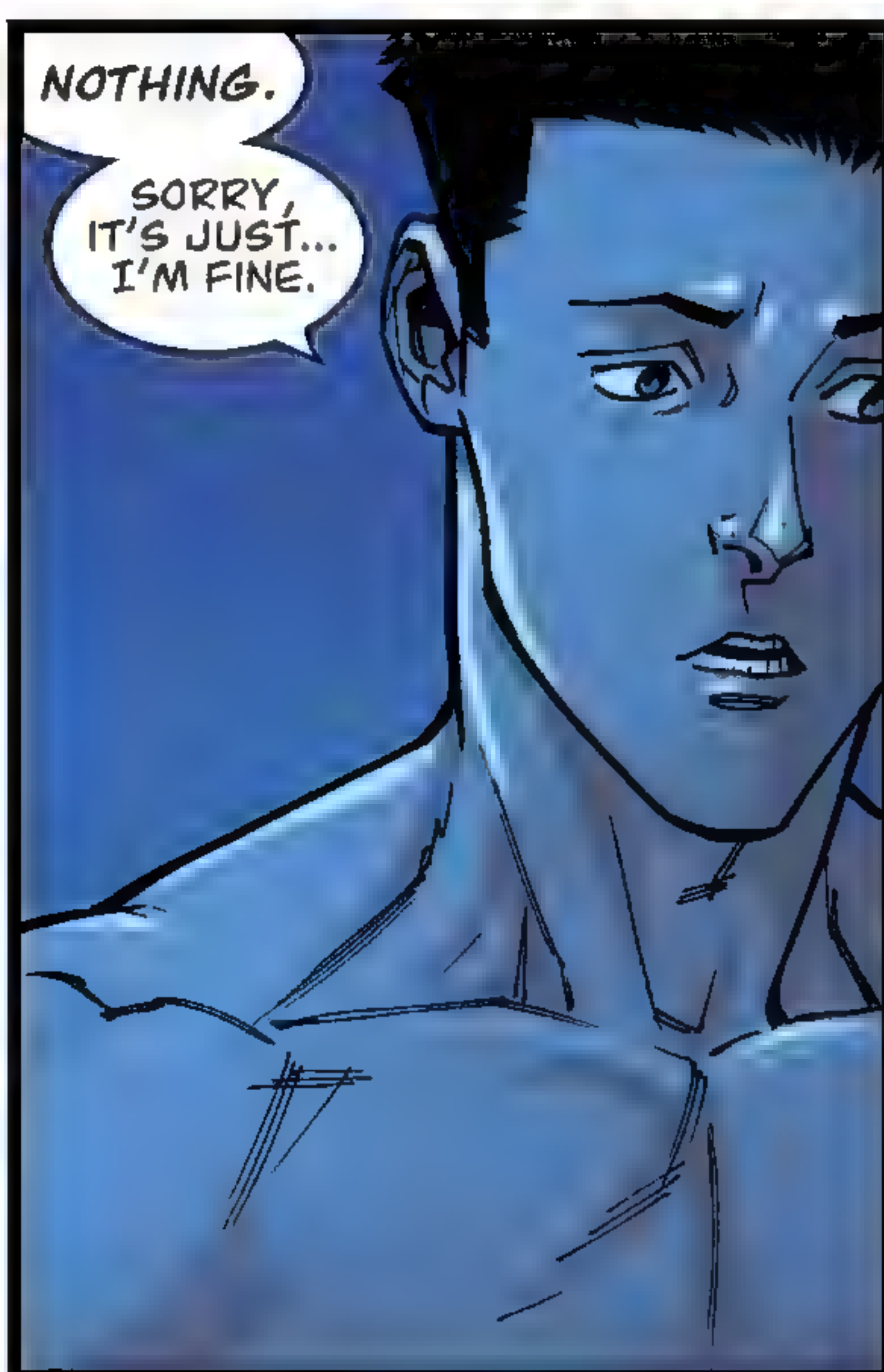
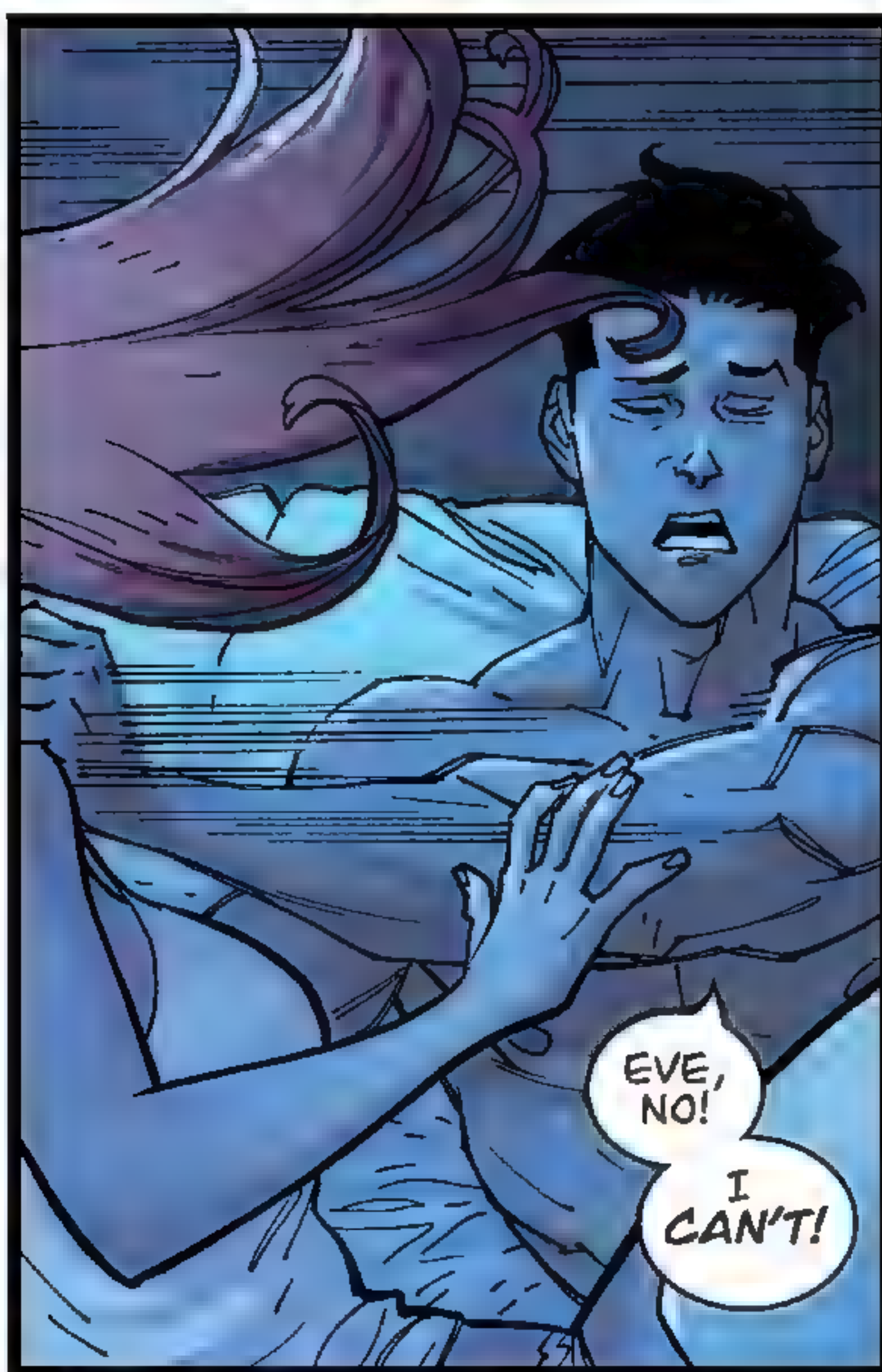
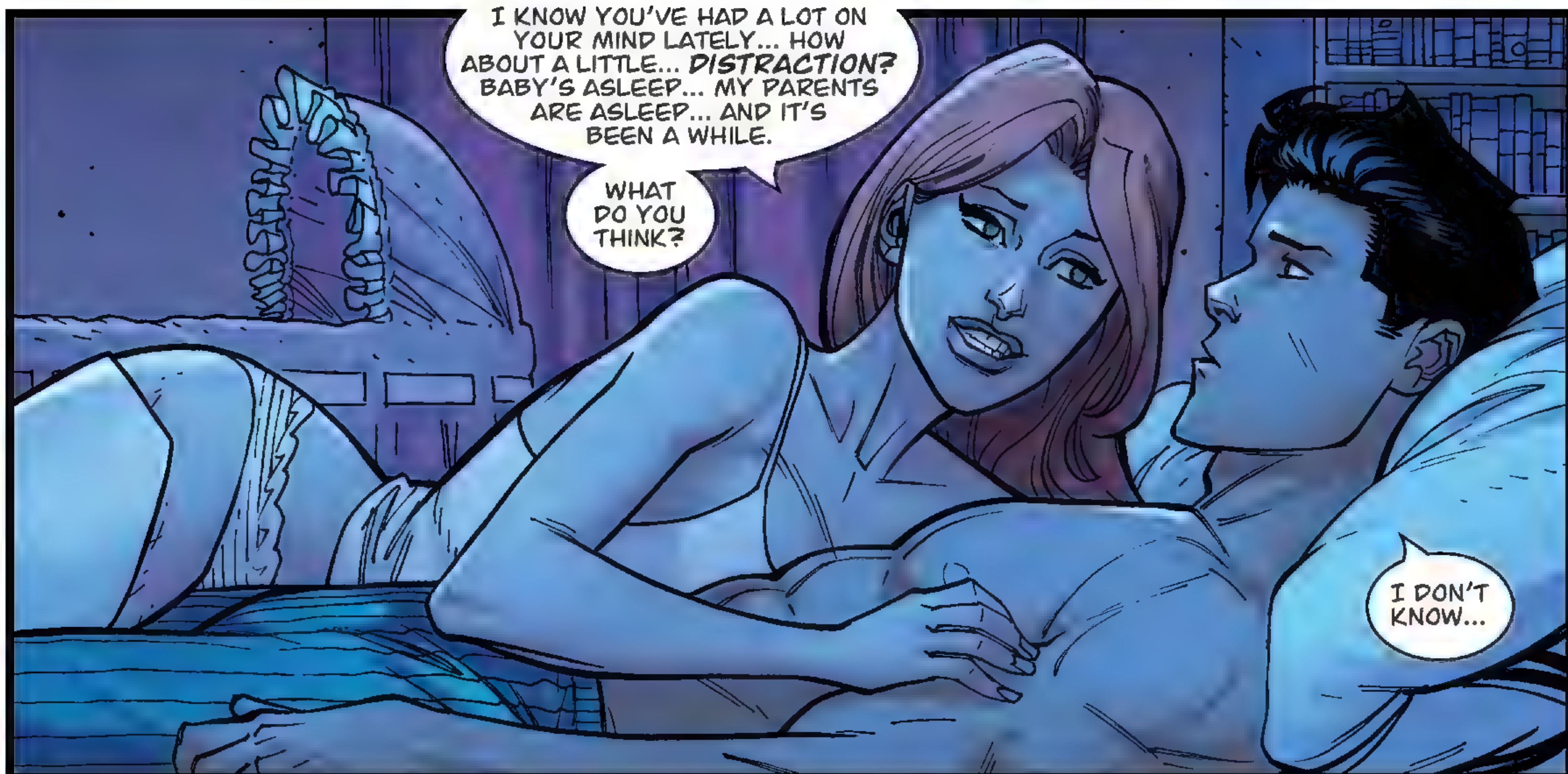


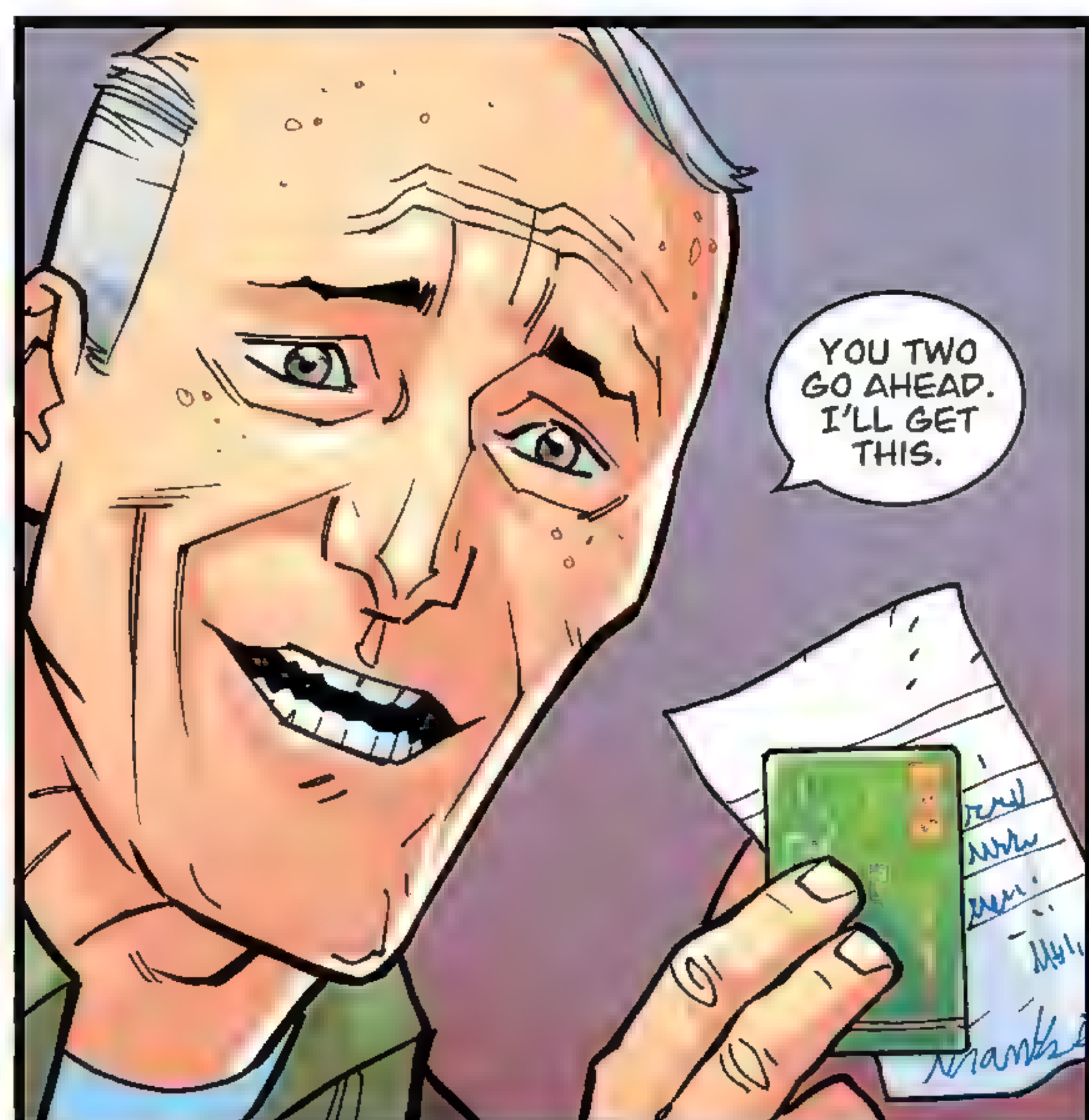
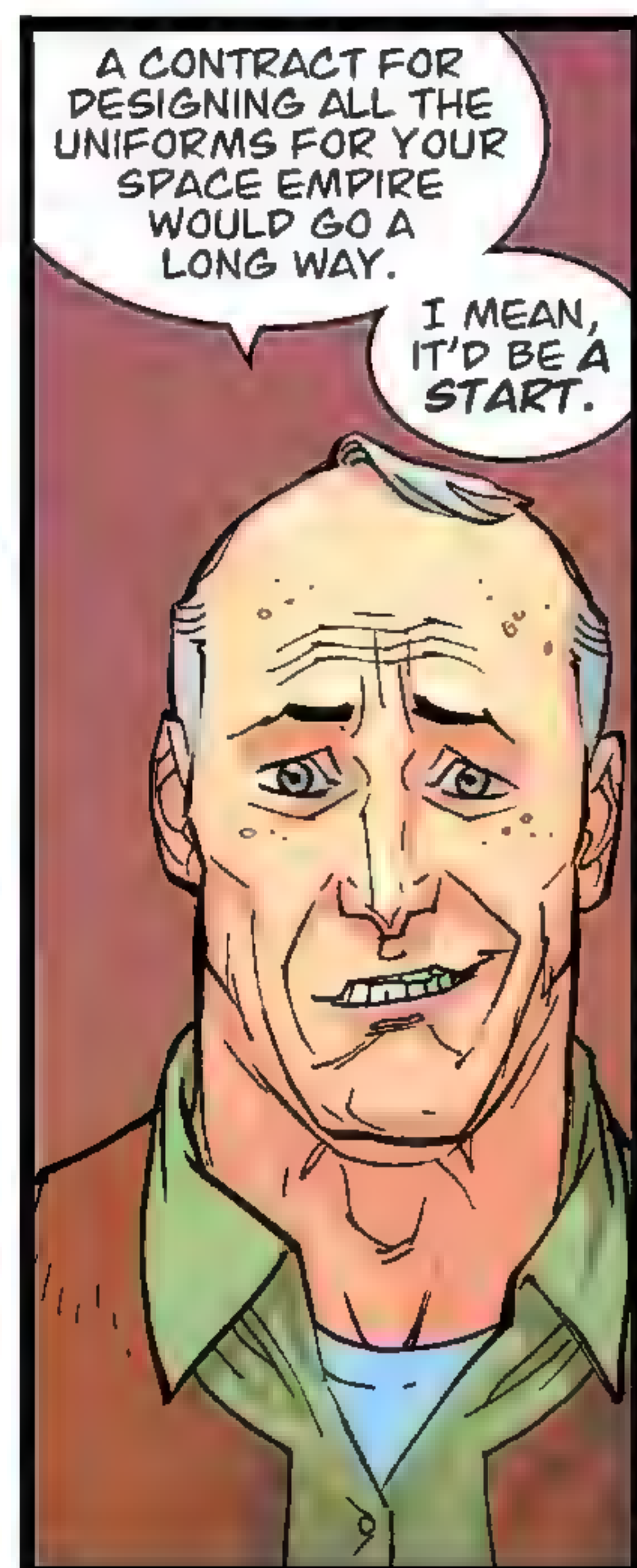
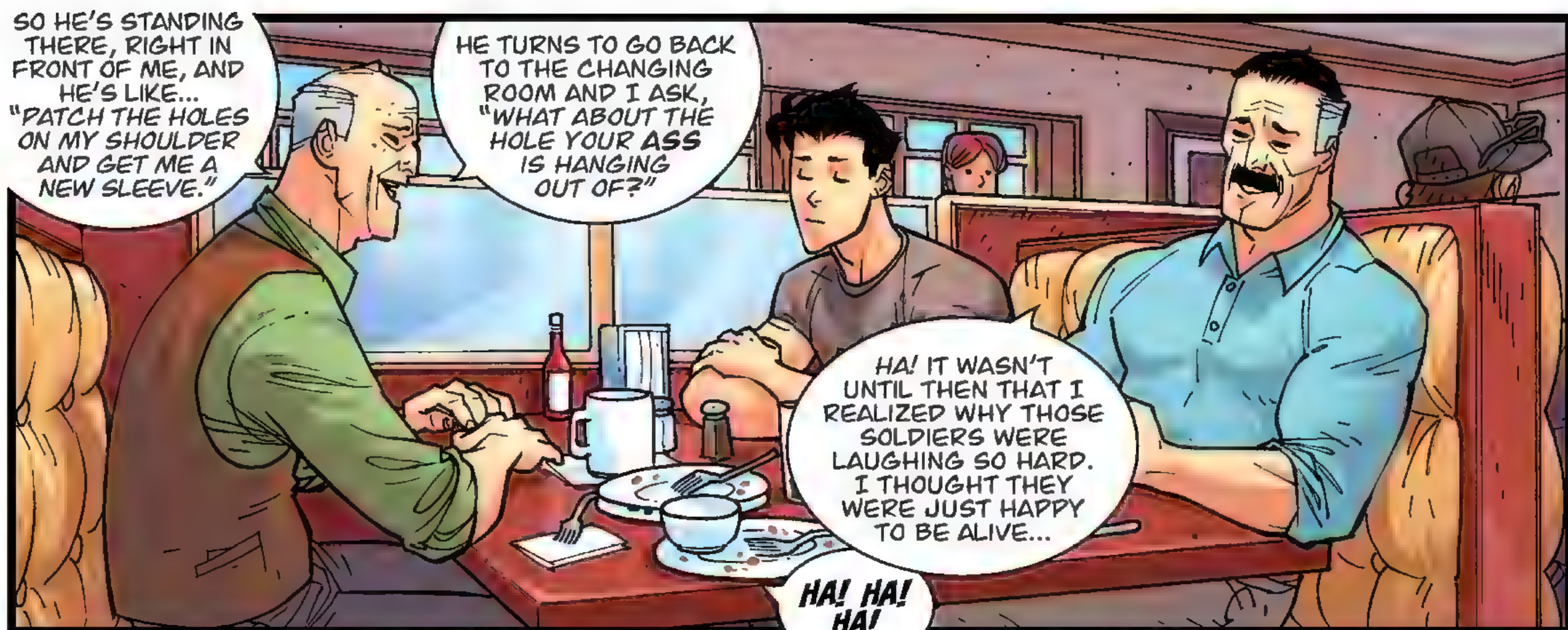
ENJOY
SPACE,
YOU COLD-
HEARTED
COWARD.

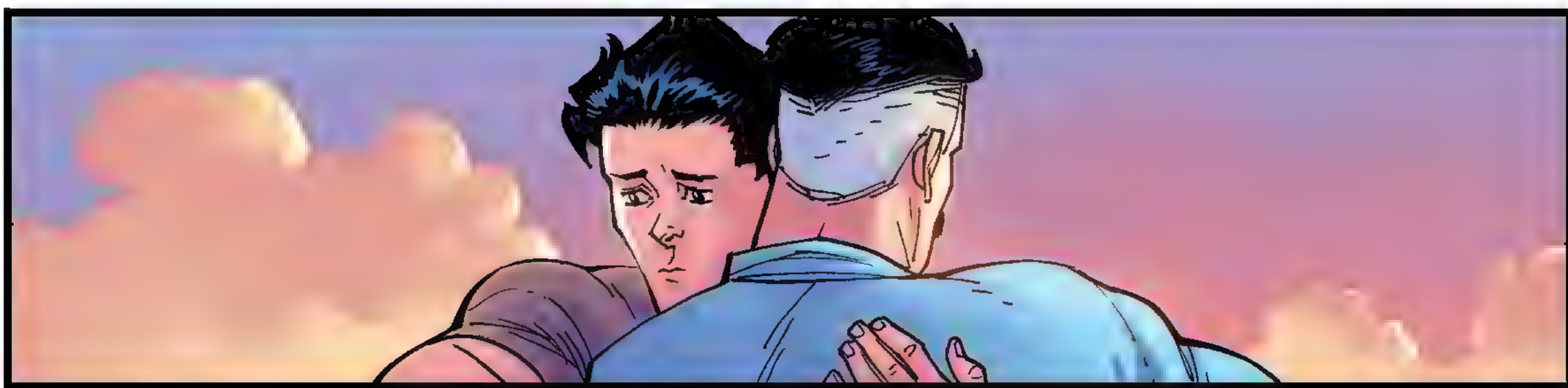
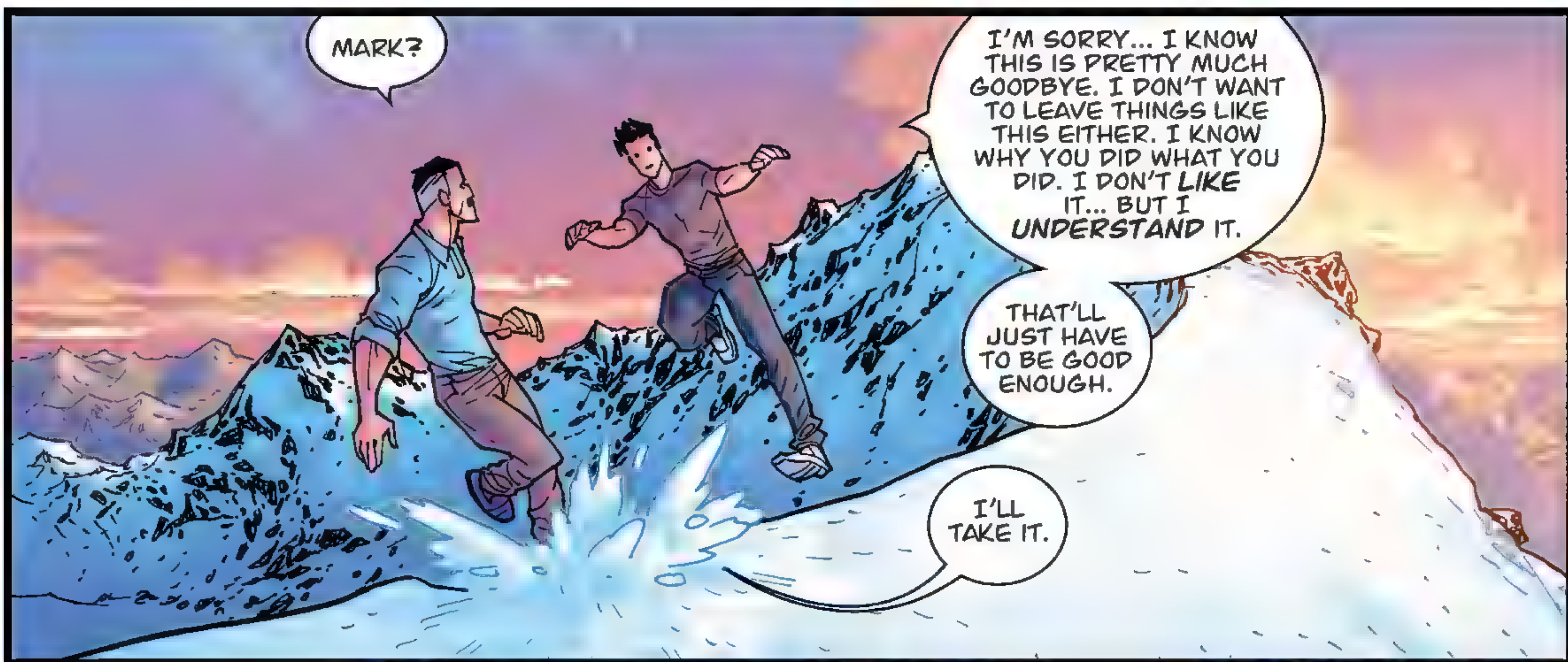
THEY'RE
GOING OUT
TO SPACE?

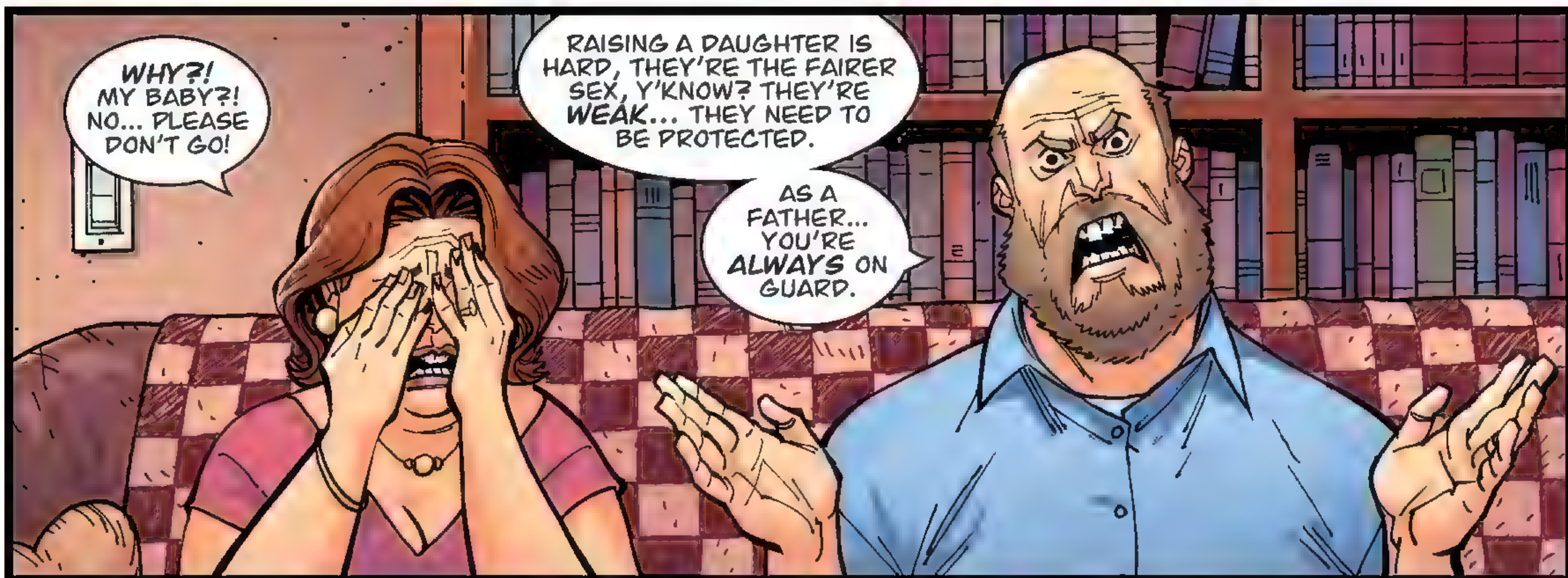








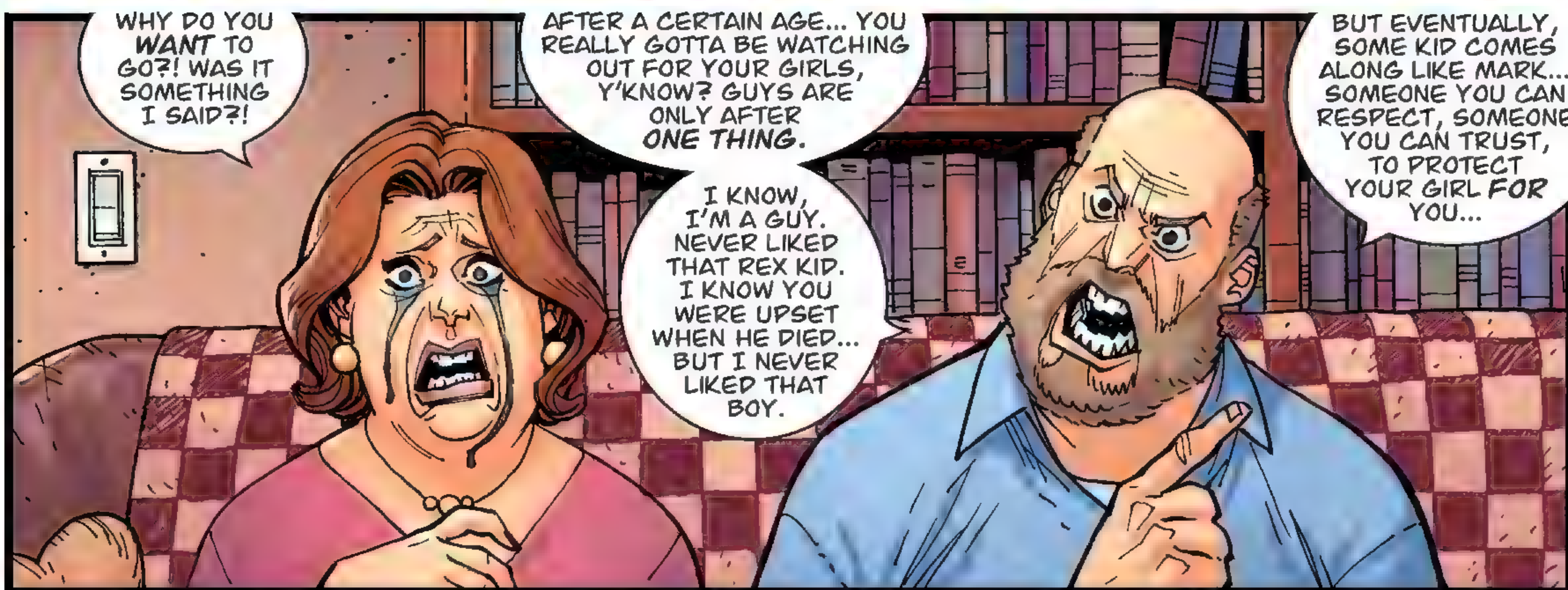




WHY?!
MY BABY?!
NO... PLEASE
DON'T GO!

RAISING A DAUGHTER IS
HARD, THEY'RE THE FAIRER
SEX, Y'KNOW? THEY'RE
WEAK... THEY NEED TO
BE PROTECTED.

AS A
FATHER...
YOU'RE
ALWAYS ON
GUARD.

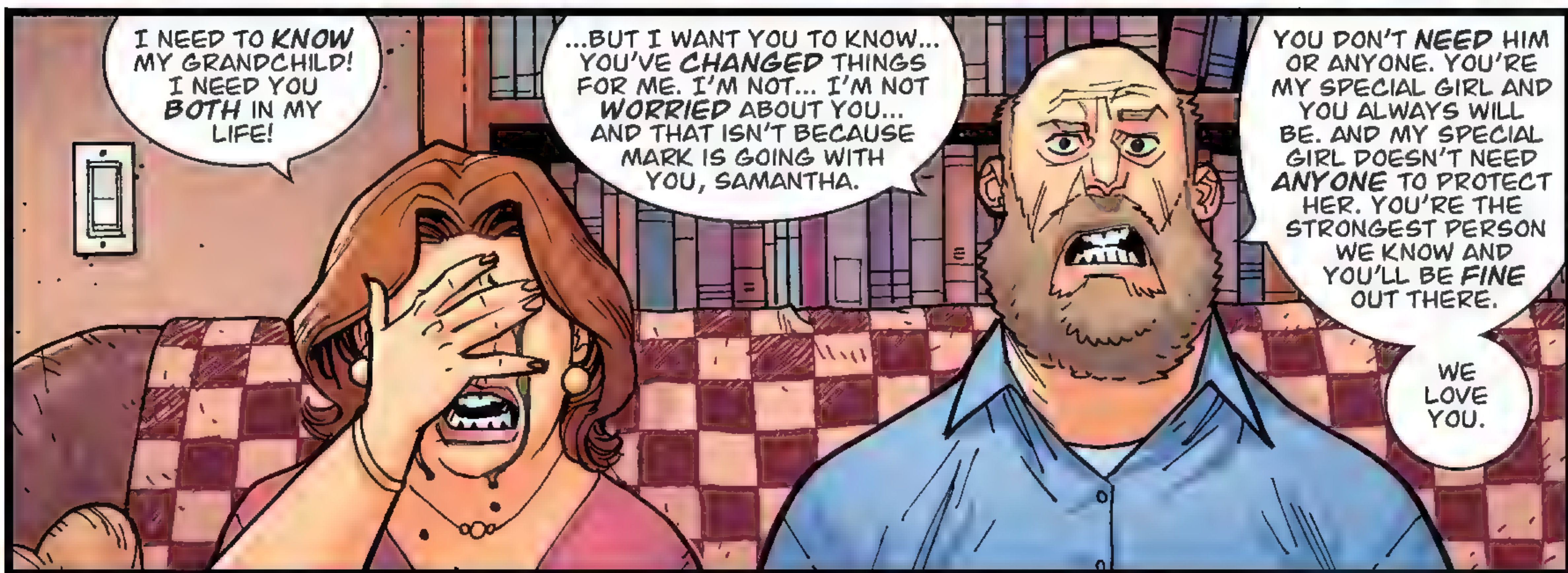


WHY DO YOU
WANT TO
GO?! WAS IT
SOMETHING
I SAID?!

AFTER A CERTAIN AGE... YOU
REALLY GOTTA BE WATCHING
OUT FOR YOUR GIRLS,
Y'KNOW? GUYS ARE
ONLY AFTER
ONE THING.

I KNOW,
I'M A GUY.
NEVER LIKED
THAT REX KID.
I KNOW YOU
WERE UPSET
WHEN HE DIED...
BUT I NEVER
LIKED THAT
BOY.

BUT EVENTUALLY,
SOME KID COMES
ALONG LIKE MARK...
SOMEONE YOU CAN
RESPECT, SOMEONE
YOU CAN TRUST,
TO PROTECT
YOUR GIRL FOR
YOU...



I NEED TO KNOW
MY GRANDCHILD!
I NEED YOU
BOTH IN MY
LIFE!

...BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW...
YOU'VE **CHANGED** THINGS
FOR ME. I'M NOT... I'M NOT
WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
AND THAT ISN'T BECAUSE
MARK IS GOING WITH
YOU, SAMANTHA.

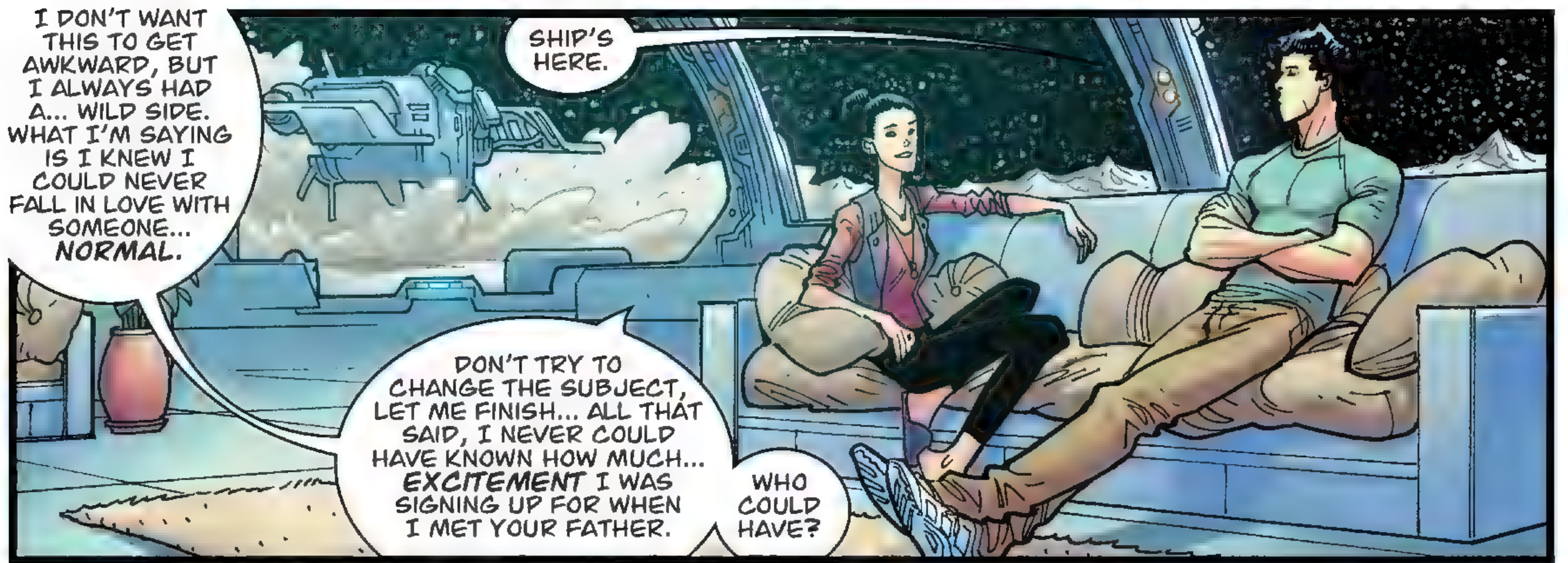
YOU DON'T NEED HIM
OR ANYONE. YOU'RE
MY SPECIAL GIRL AND
YOU ALWAYS WILL
BE. AND MY SPECIAL
GIRL DOESN'T NEED
ANYONE TO PROTECT
HER. YOU'RE THE
STRONGEST PERSON
WE KNOW AND
YOU'LL BE FINE
OUT THERE.

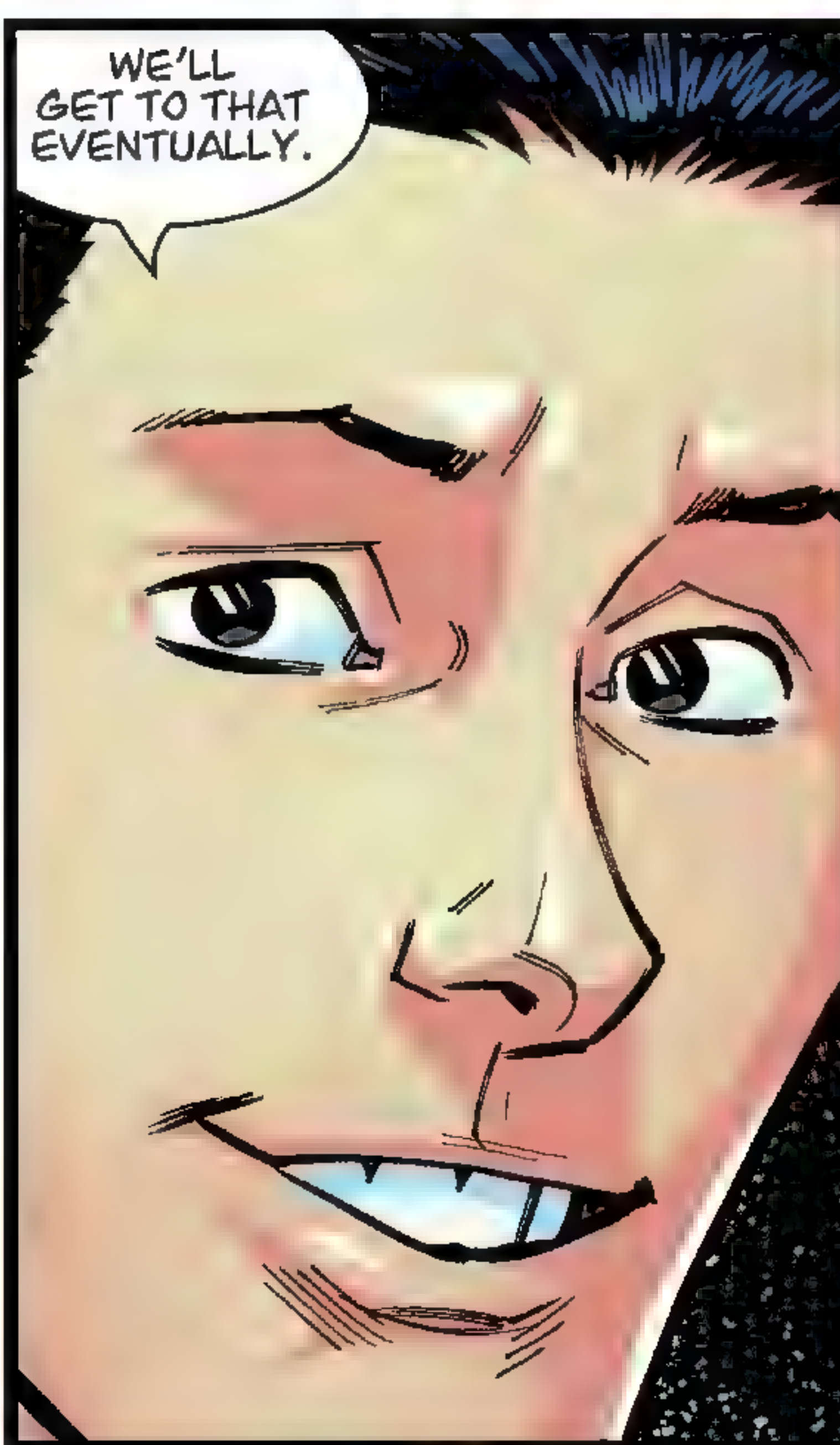
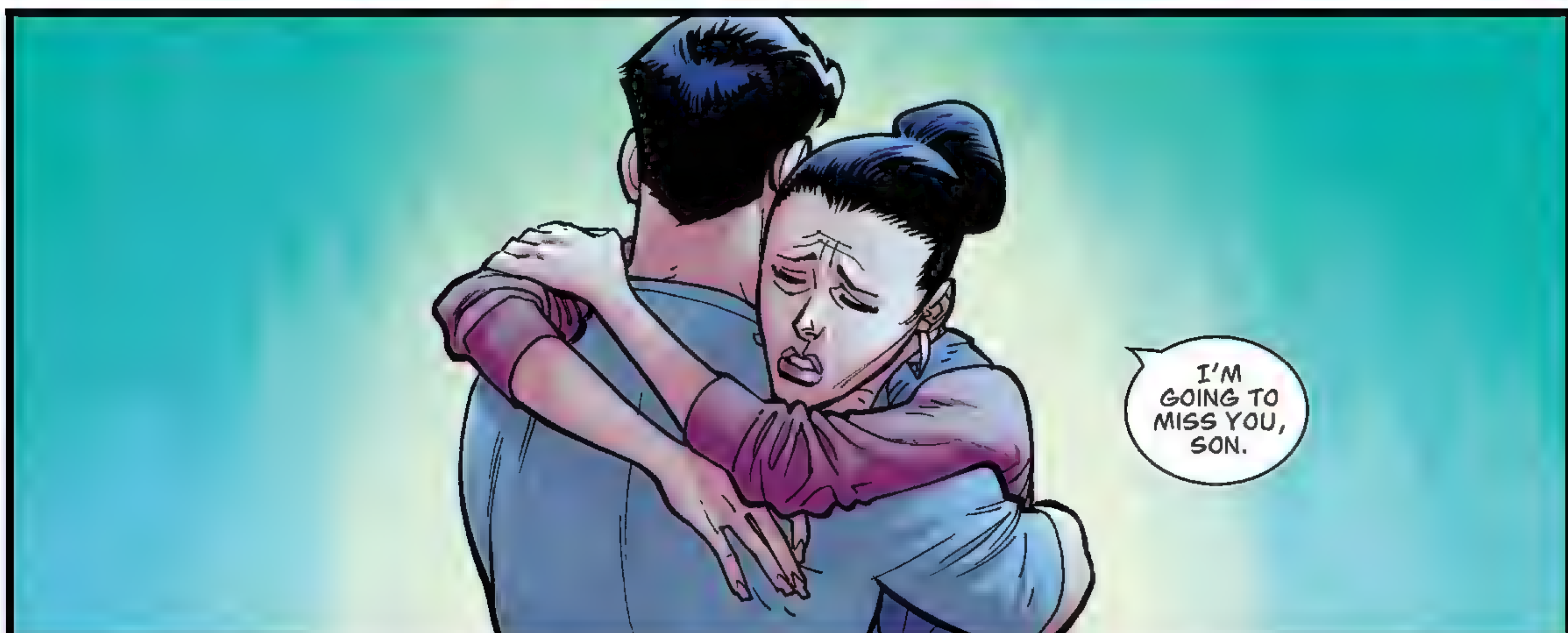
WE
LOVE
YOU.



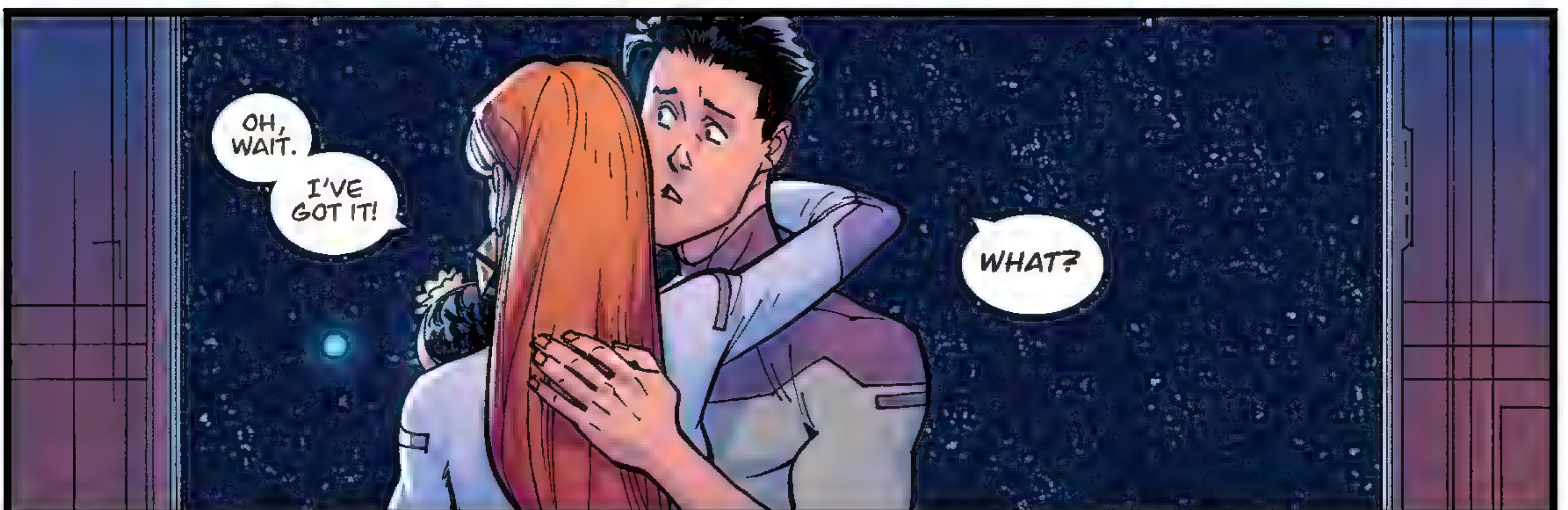
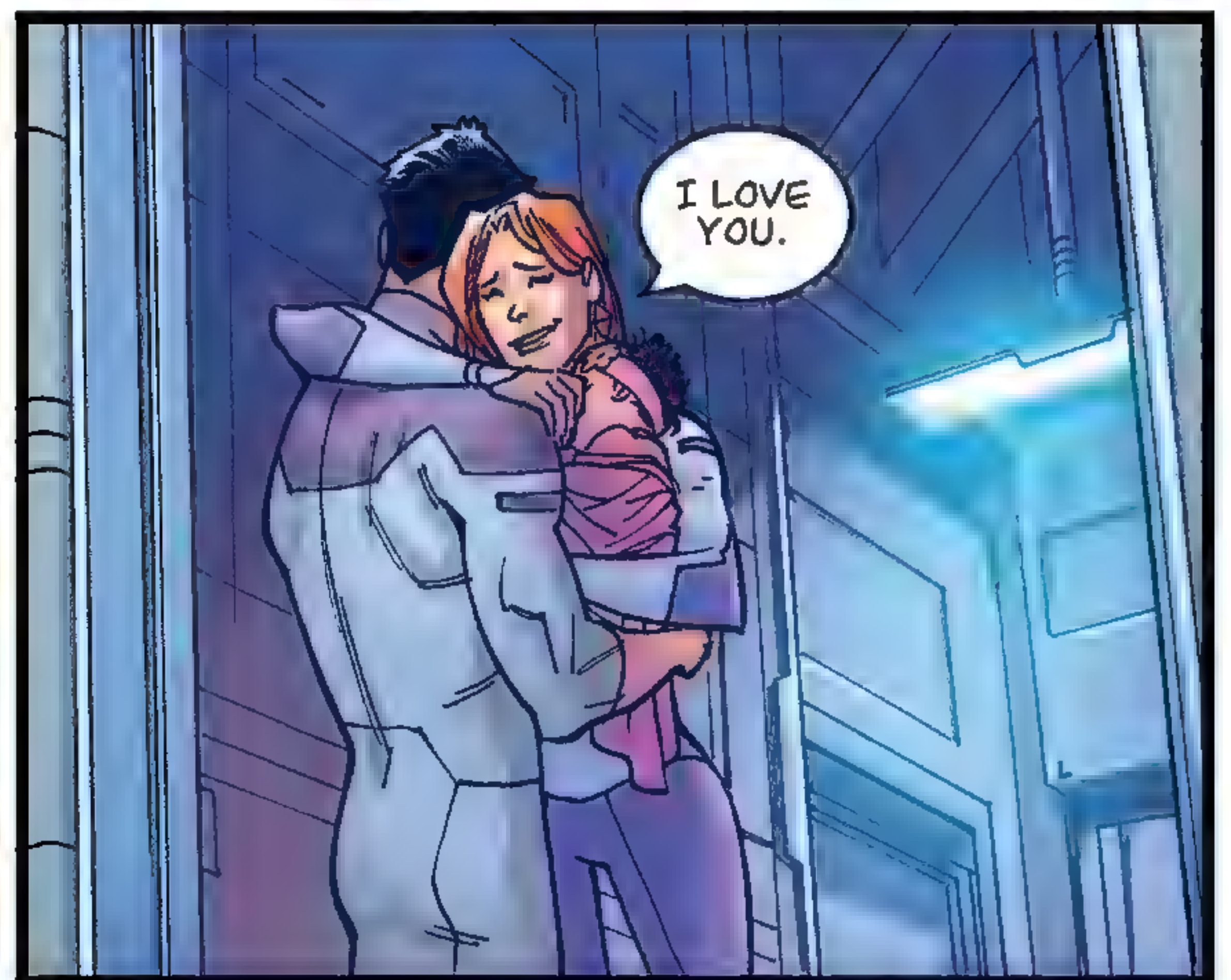
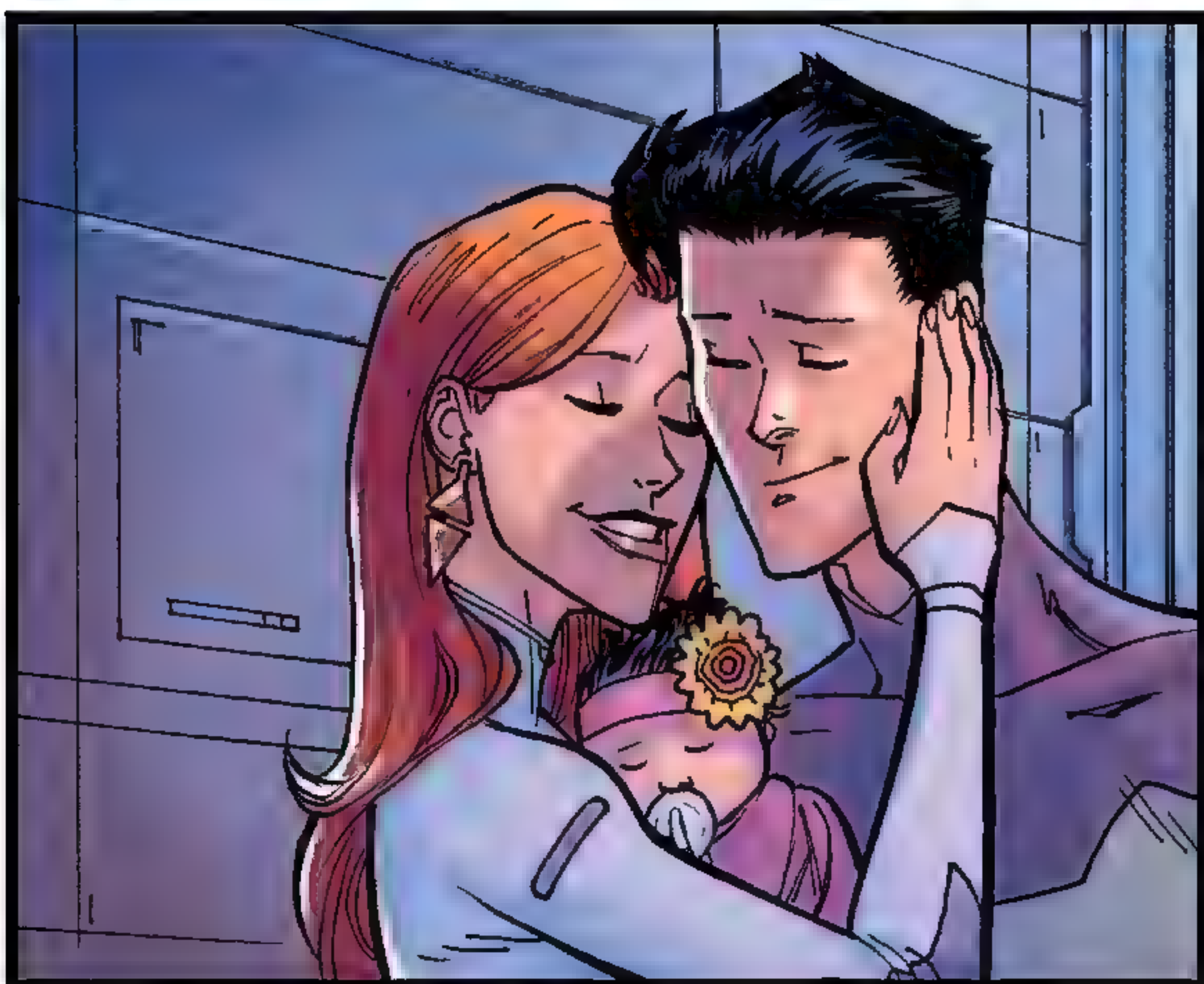
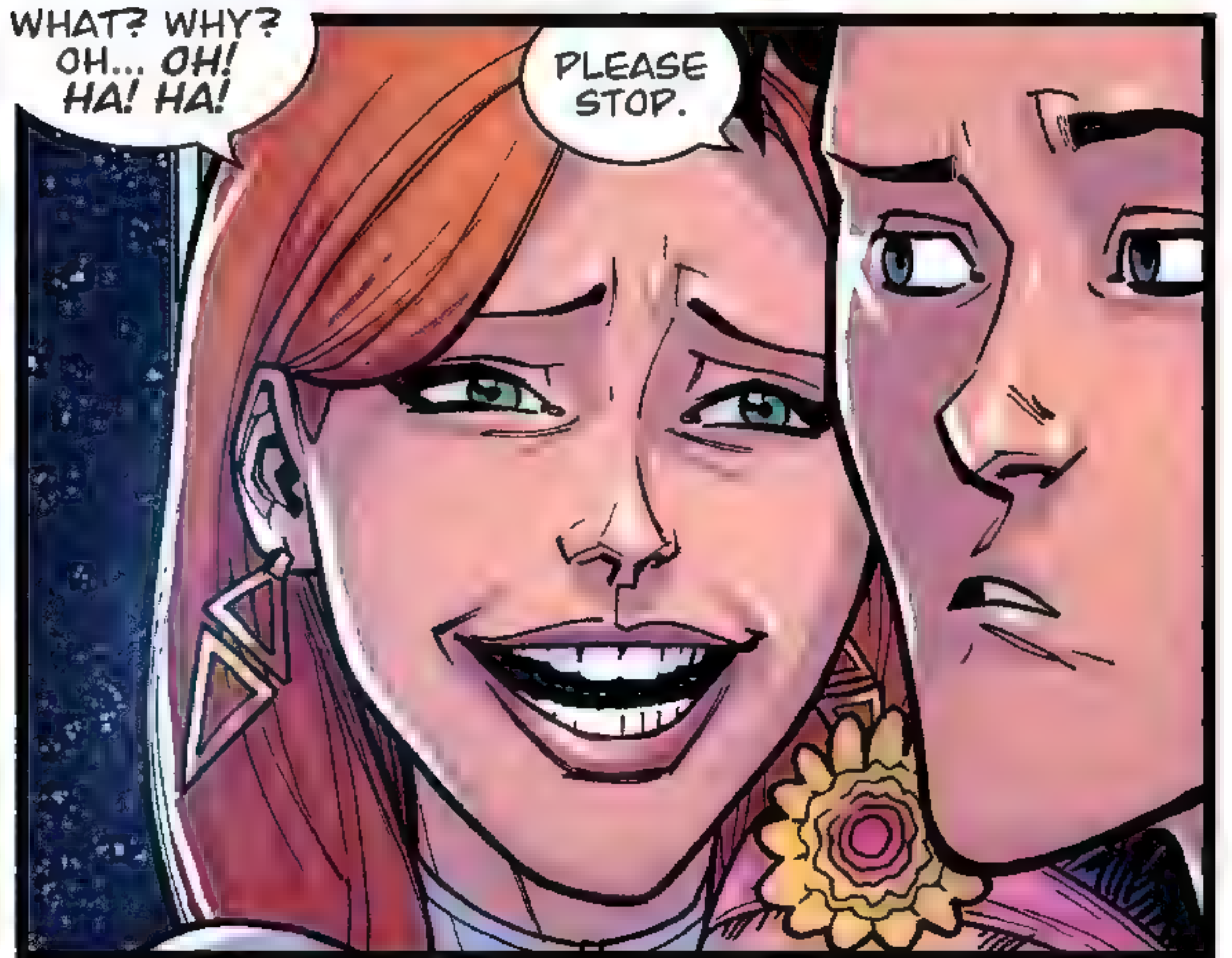
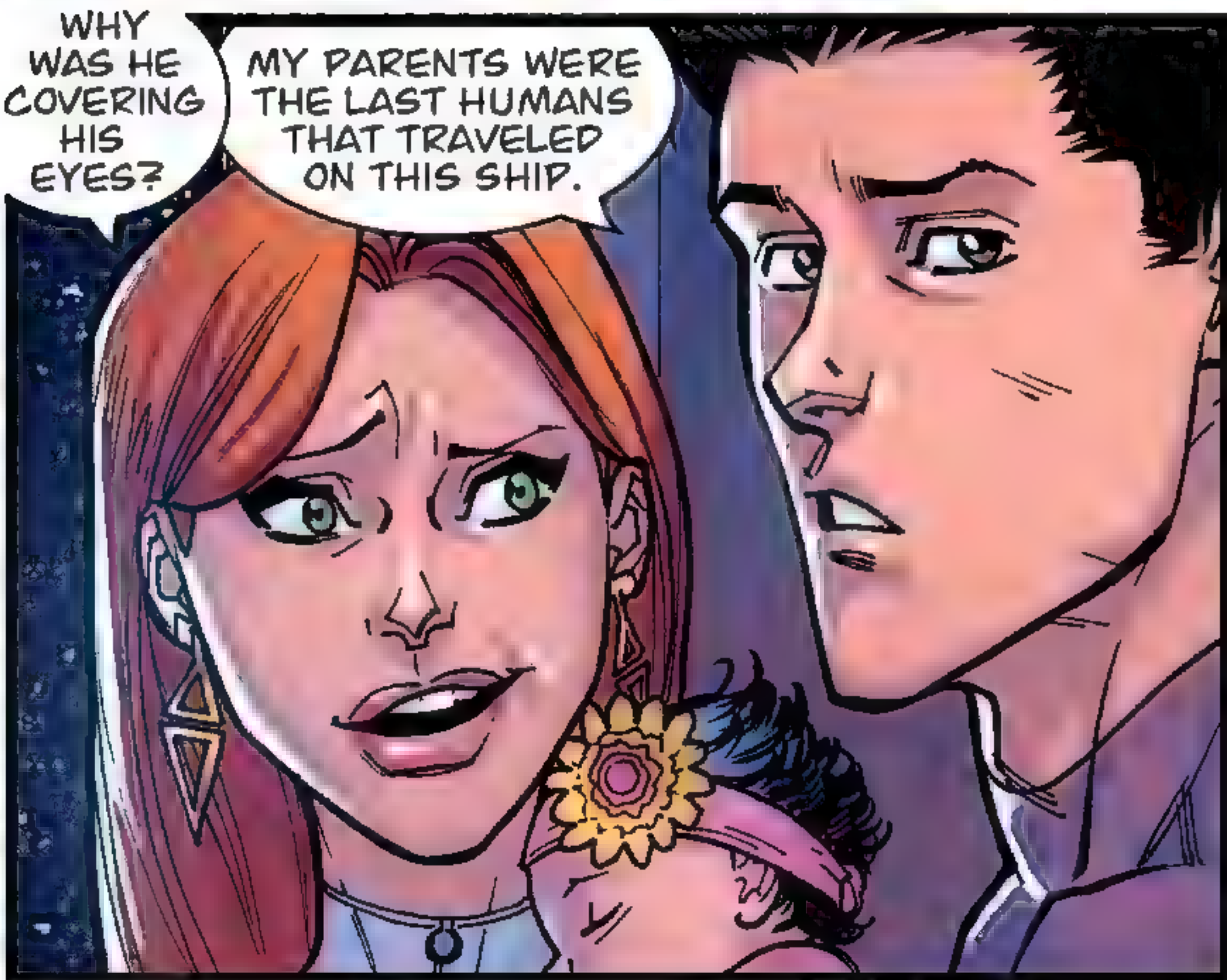
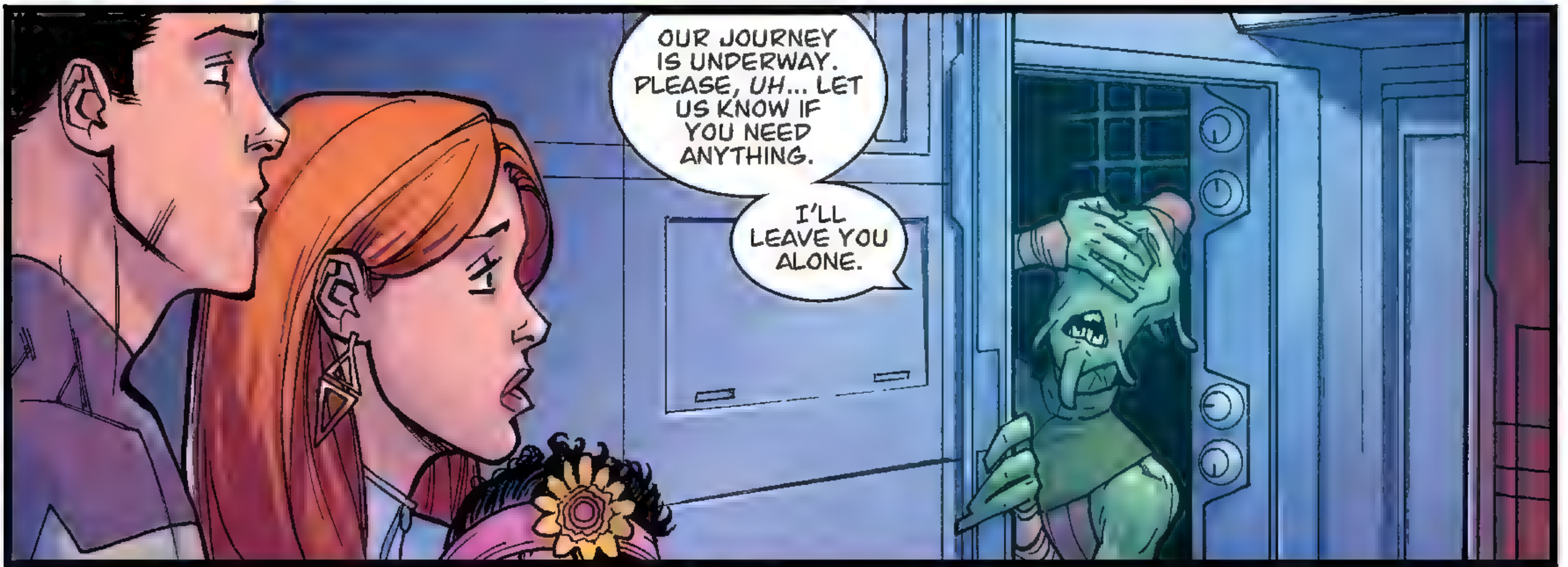
OKAY...

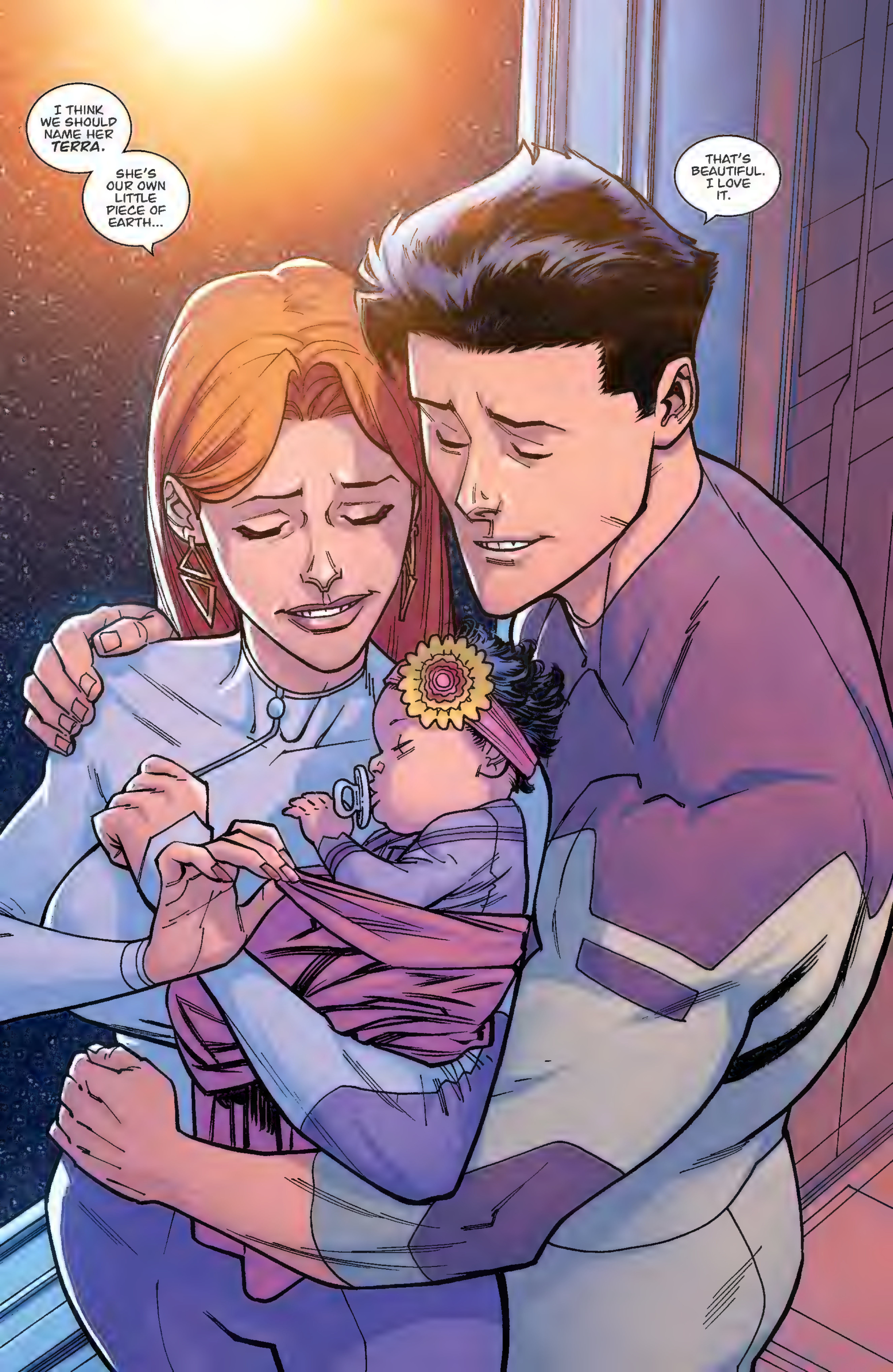
WOW, DAD...
YOU REALLY
TURNED THAT
AROUND AT
THE END.











I THINK
WE SHOULD
NAME HER
TERRA.

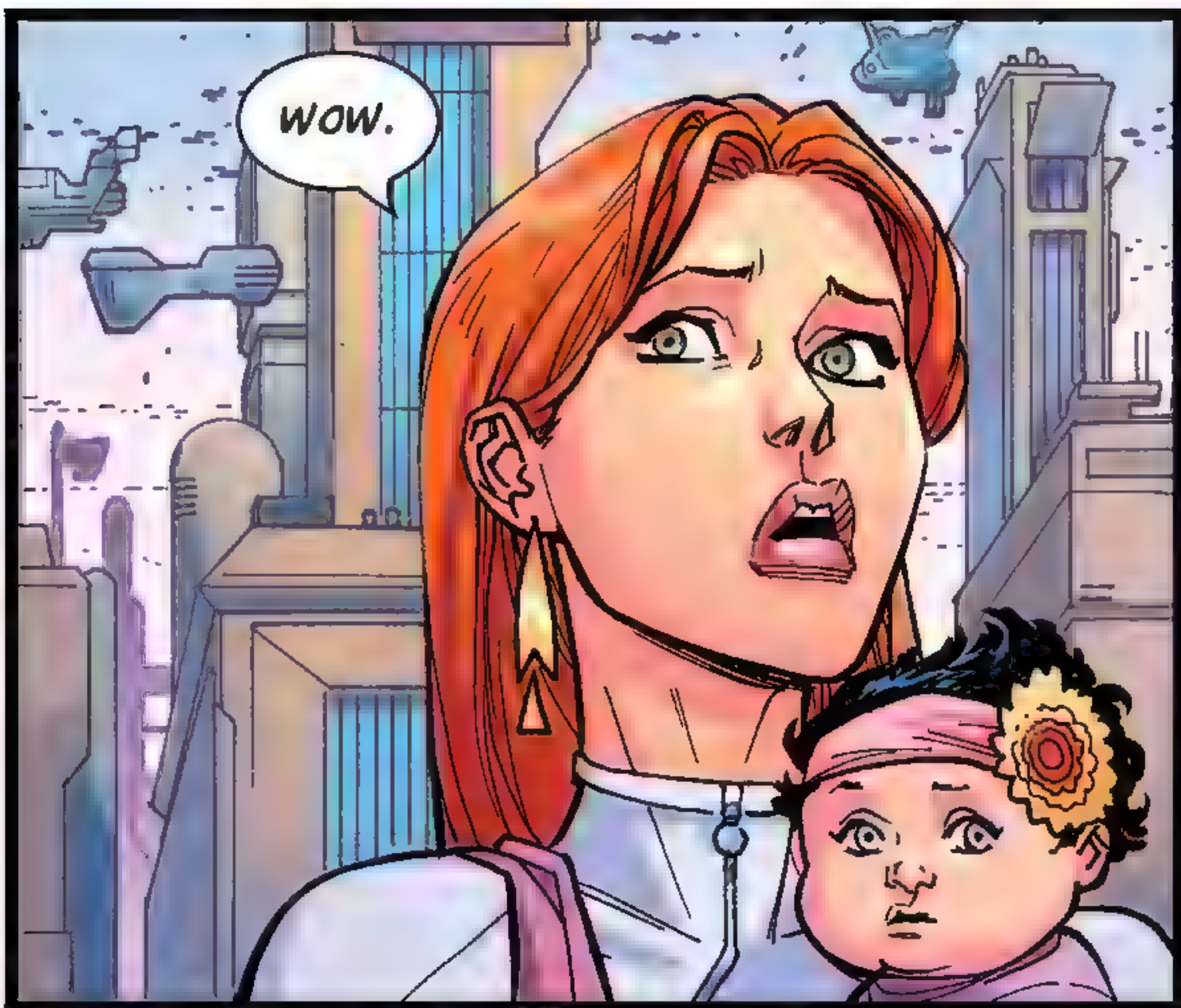
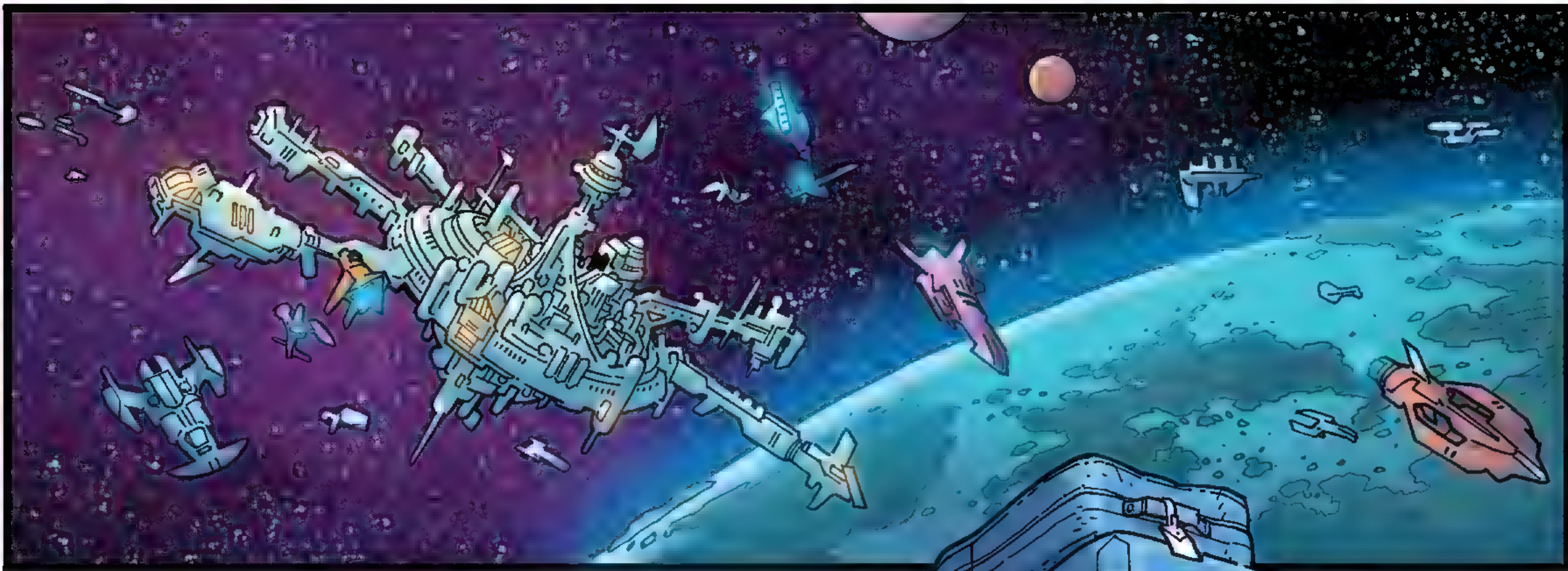
SHE'S
OUR OWN
LITTLE
PIECE OF
EARTH...

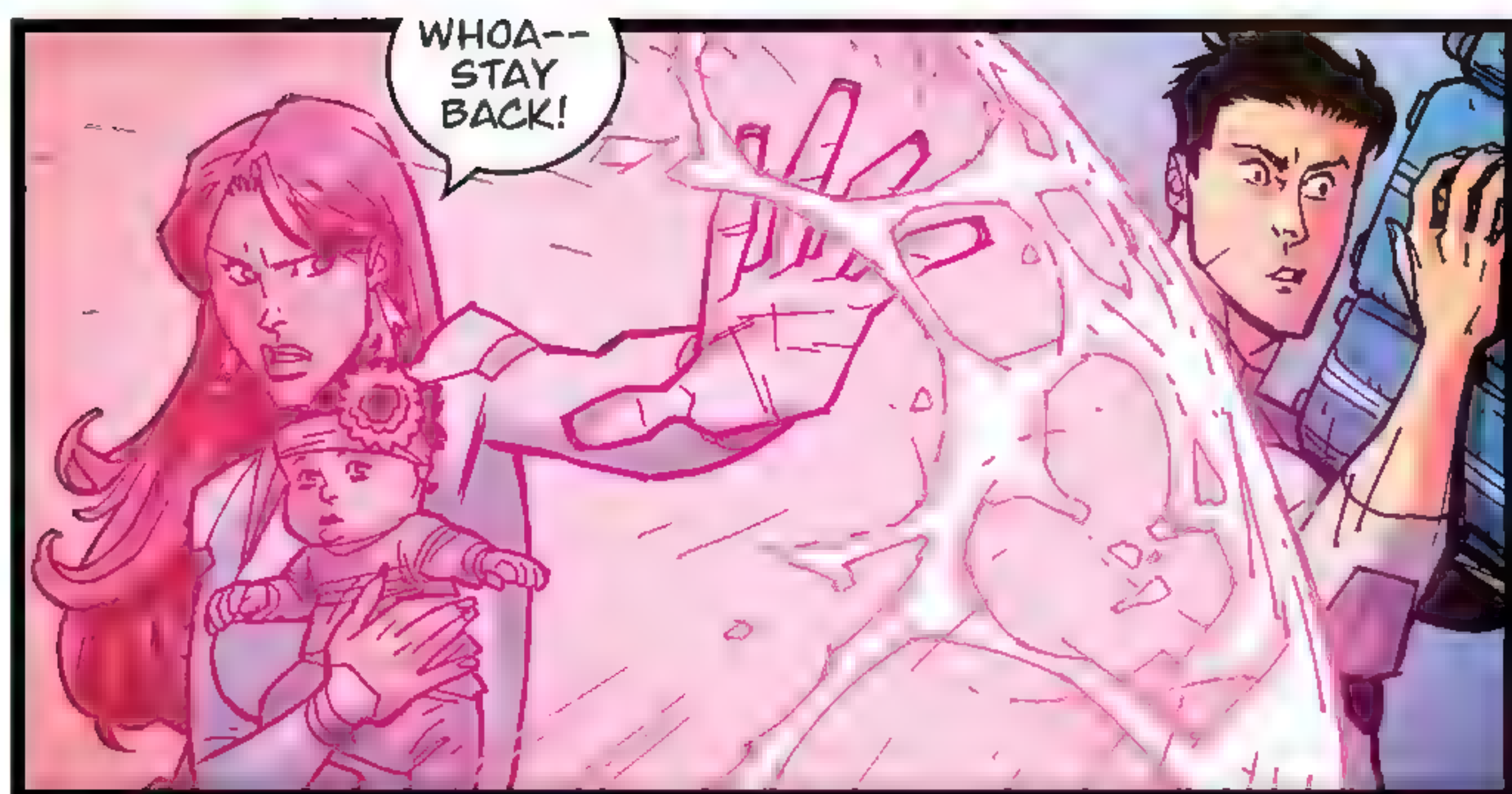
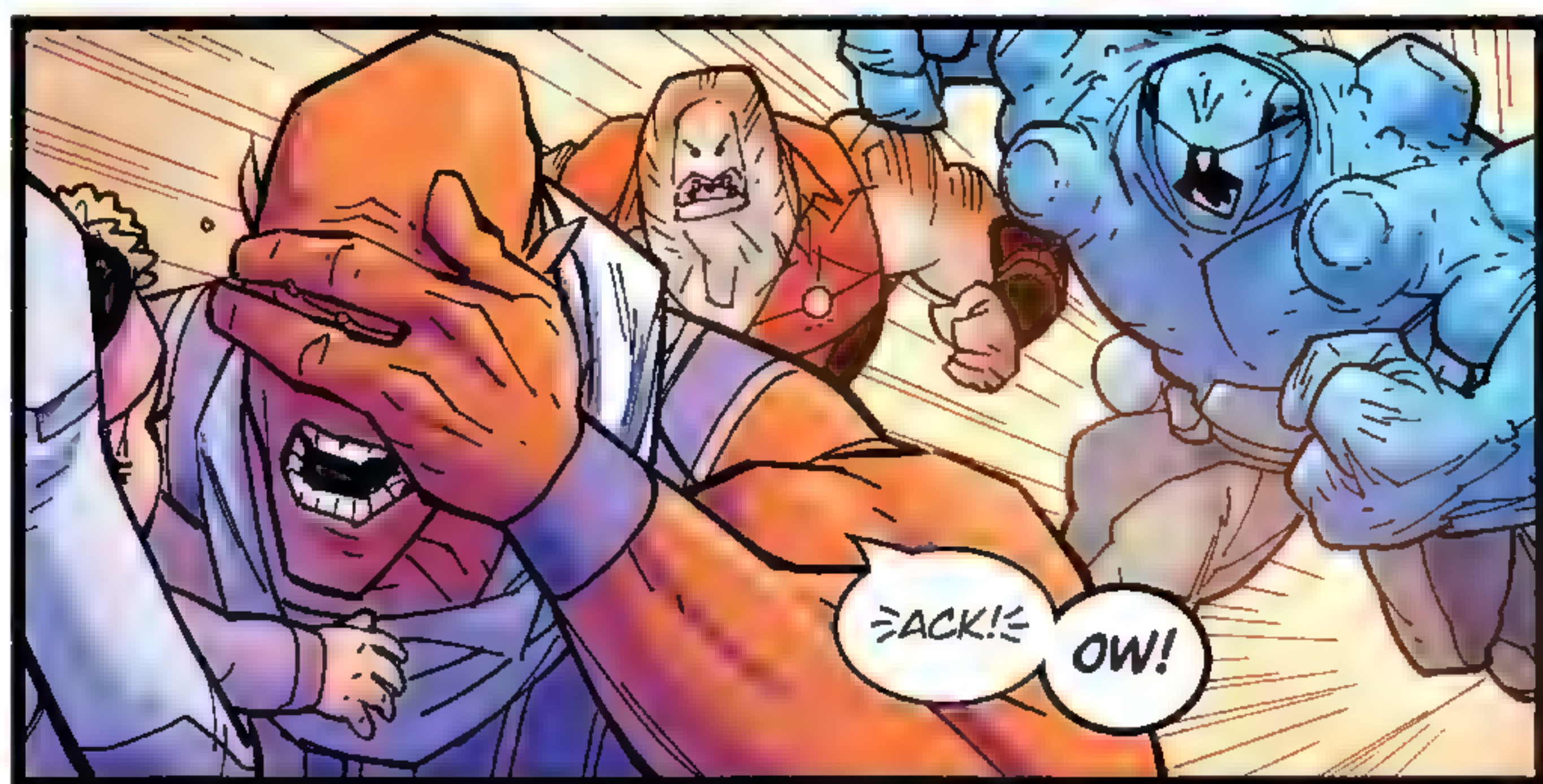
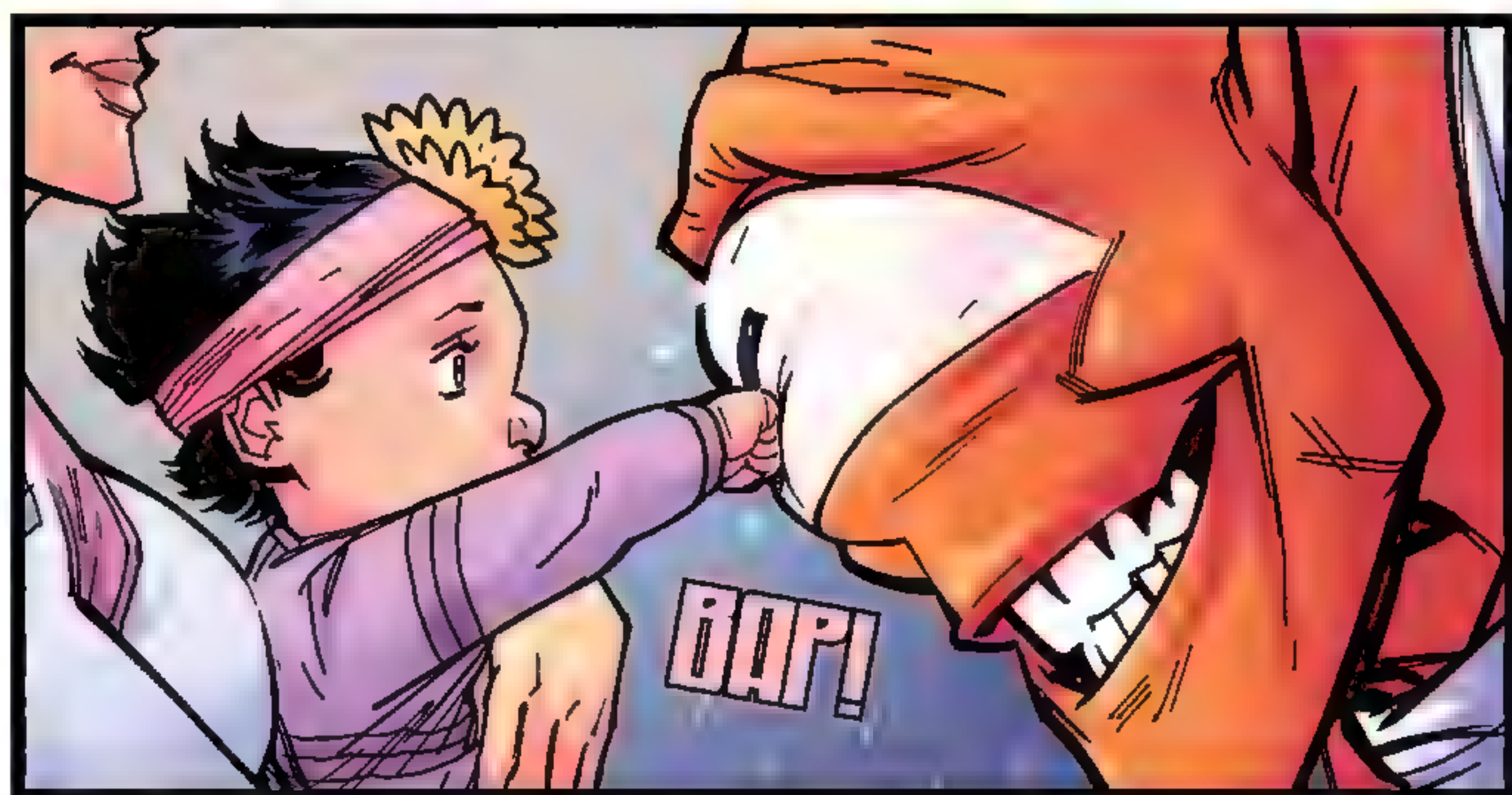
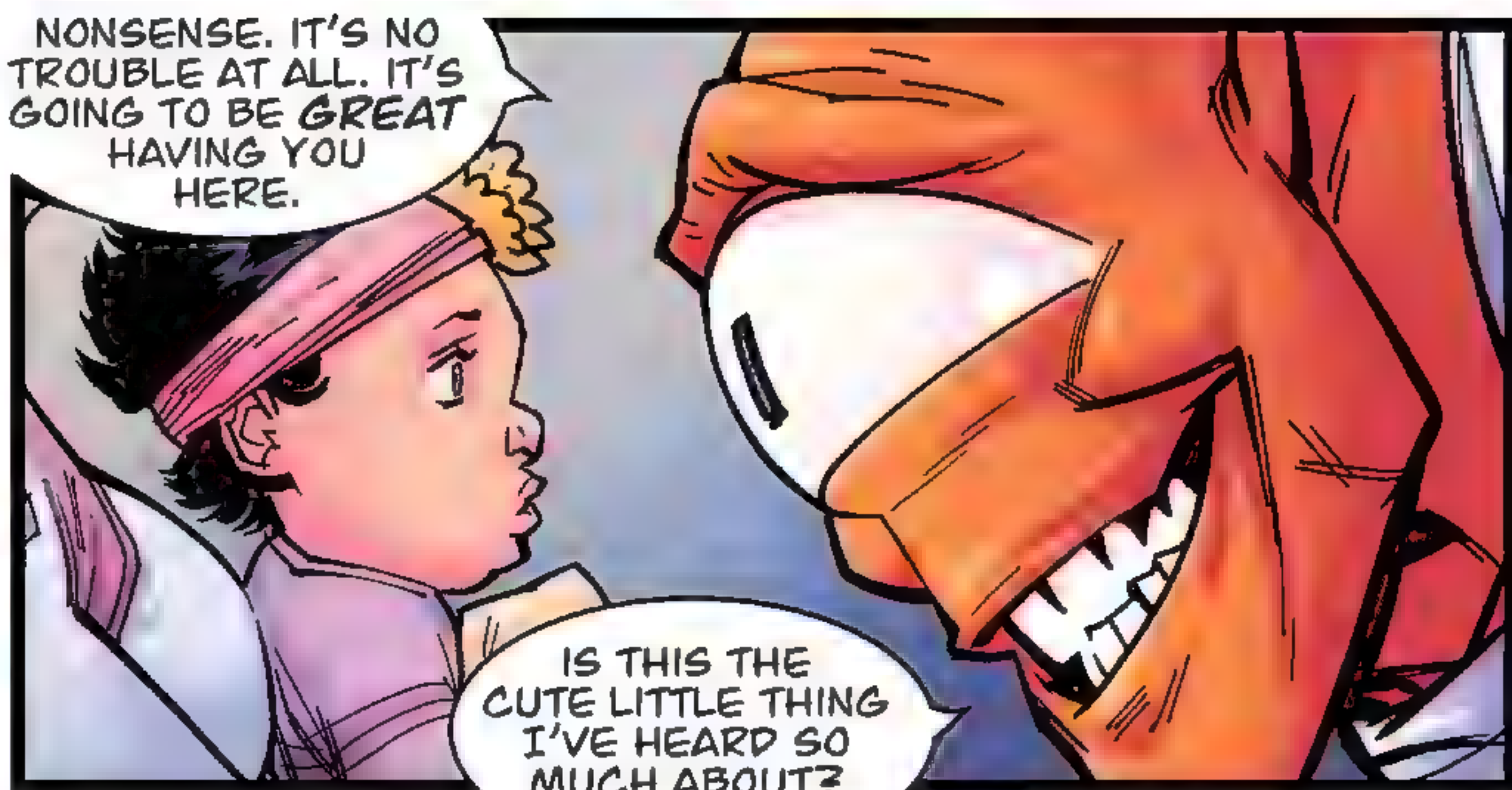
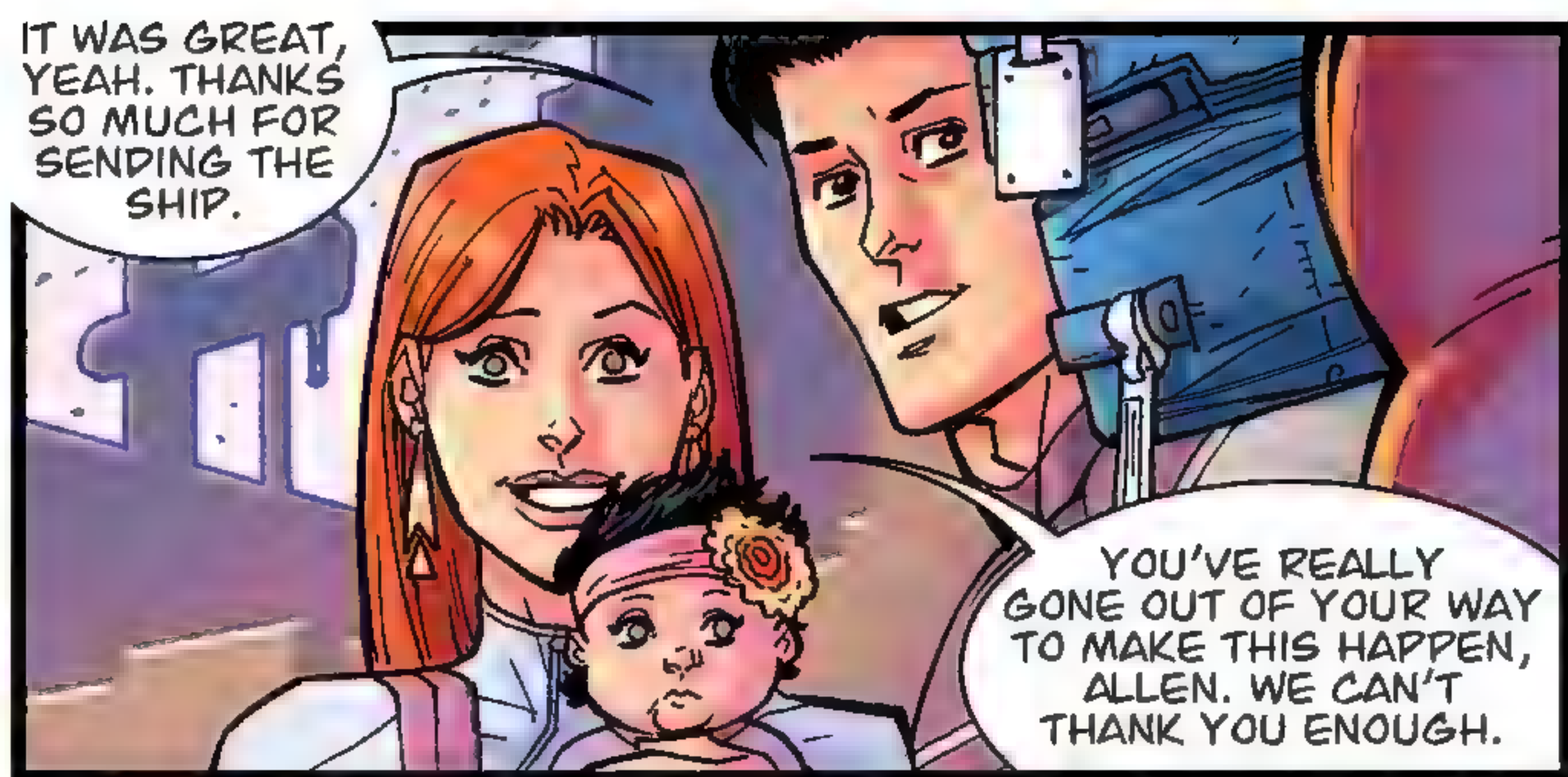
THAT'S
BEAUTIFUL.
I LOVE
IT.

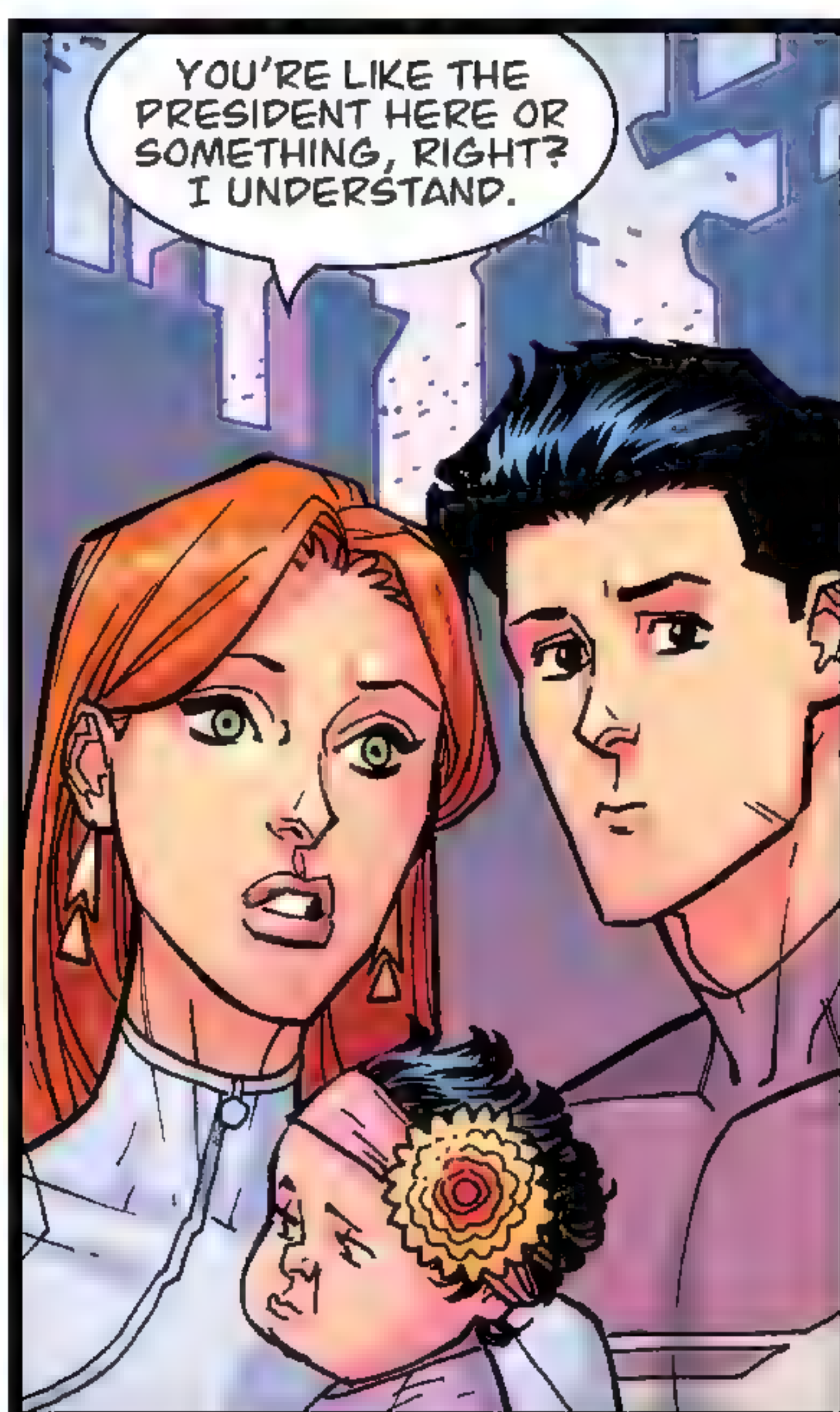
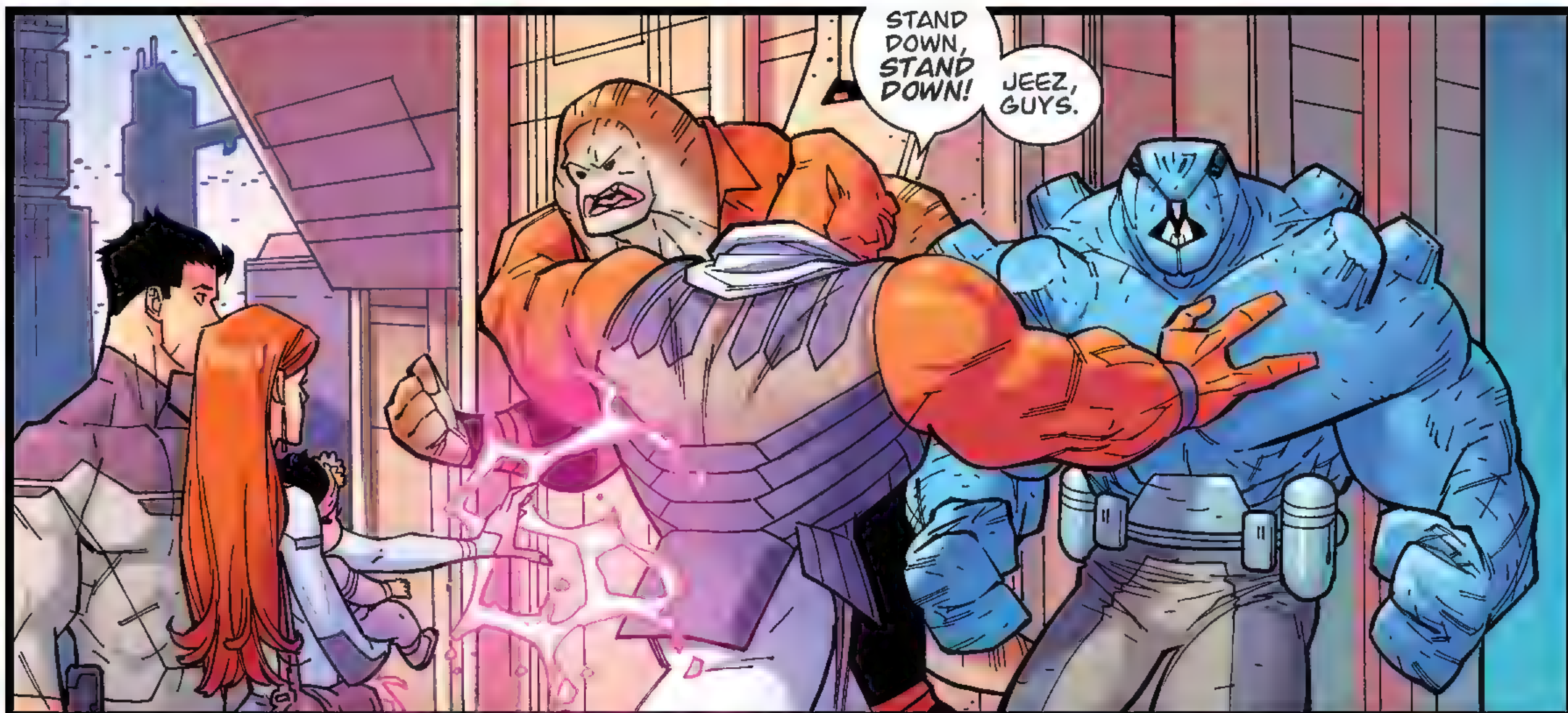


CHAPTER FOUR











SORRY ABOUT THAT. I KIND OF LOST TRACK OF TIME.

I'M STILL PRETTY IRRESPONSIBLE. WHAT CAN YOU DO?



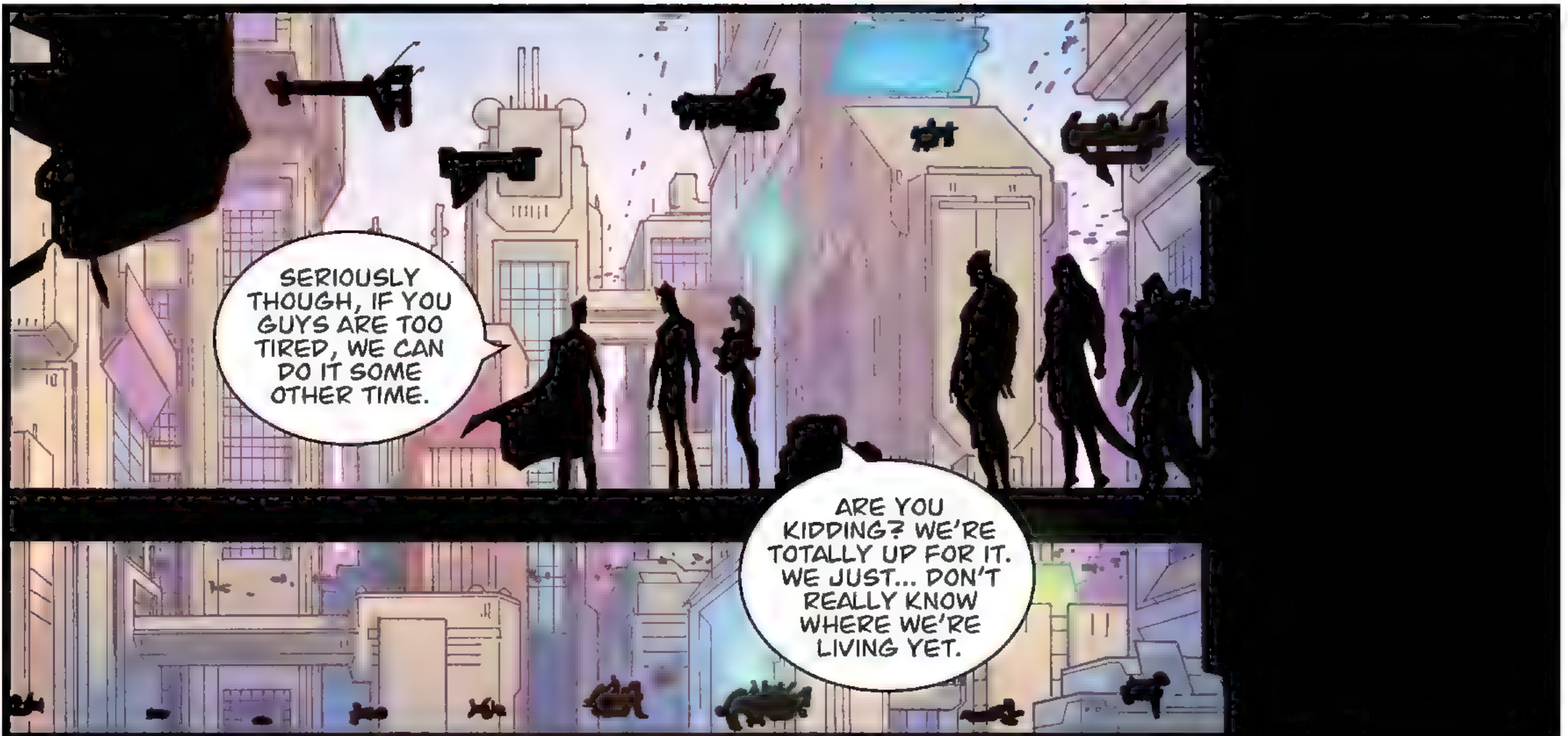
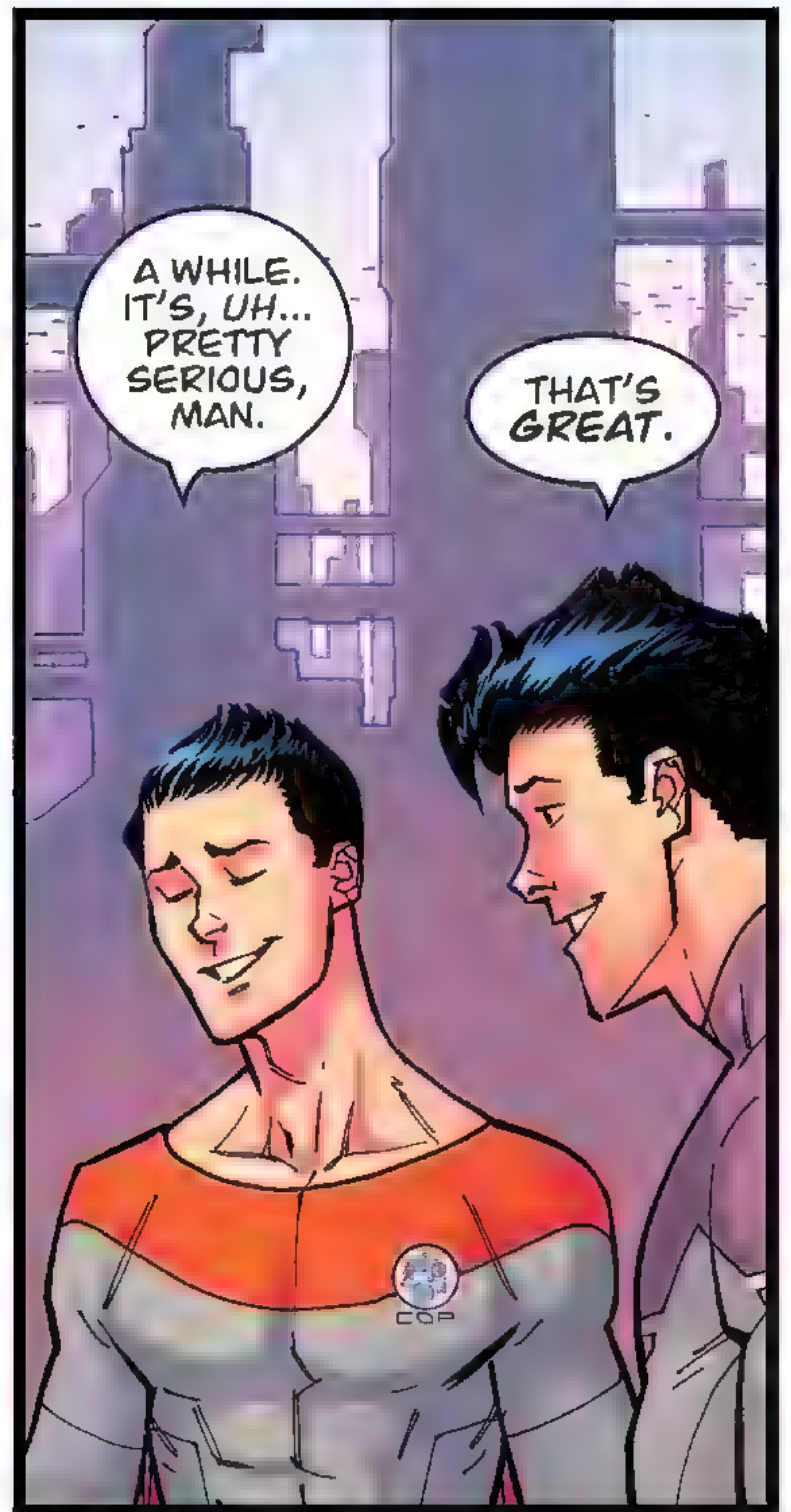
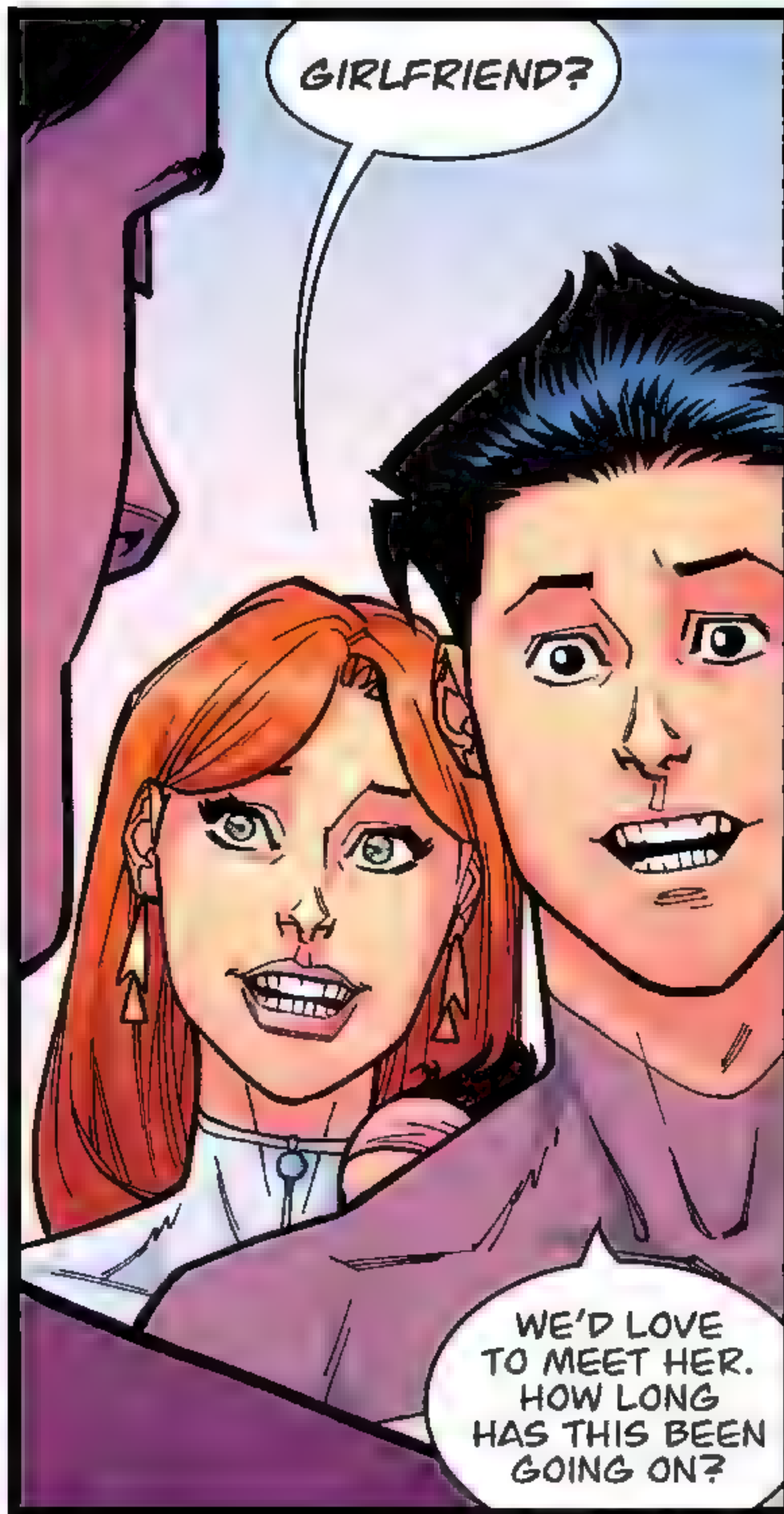
OLIVER?

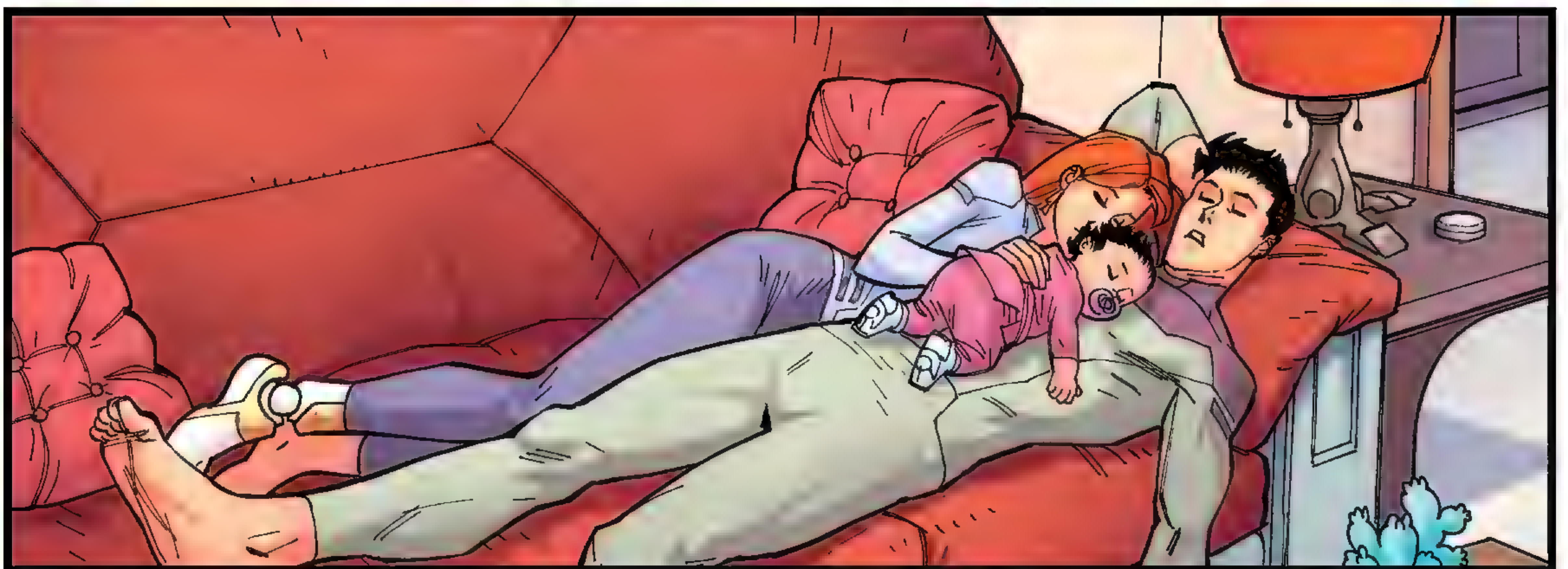
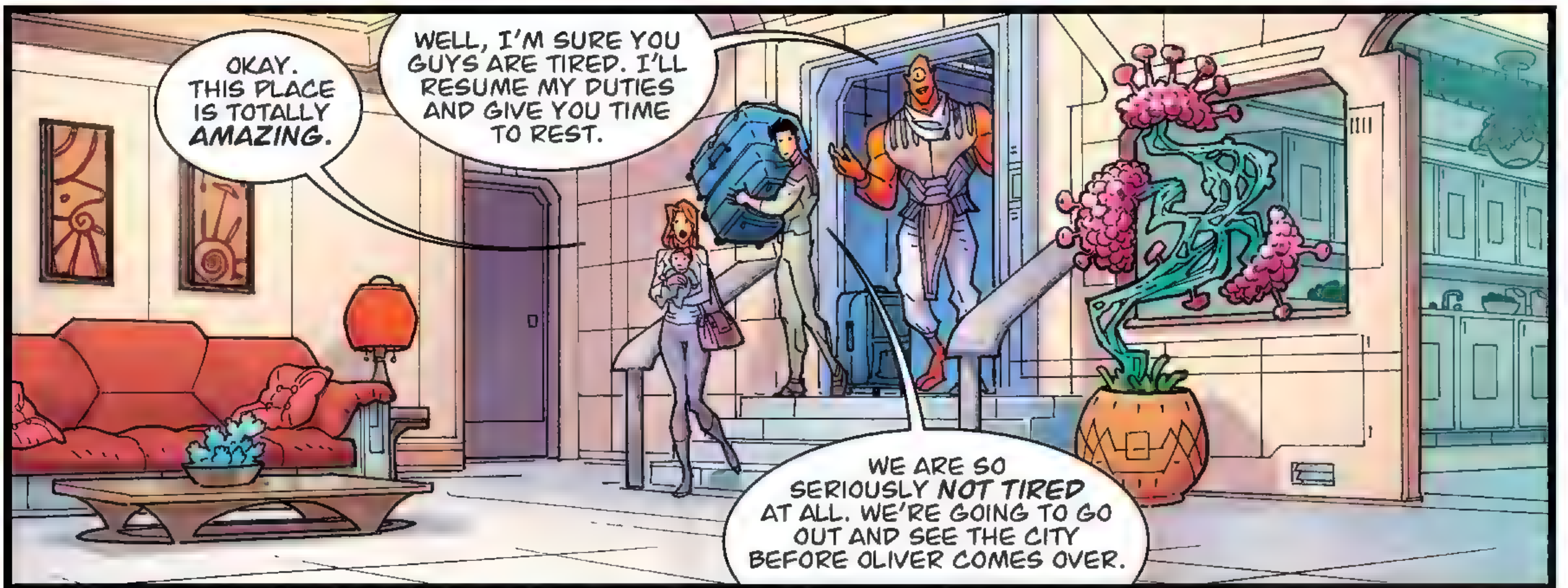
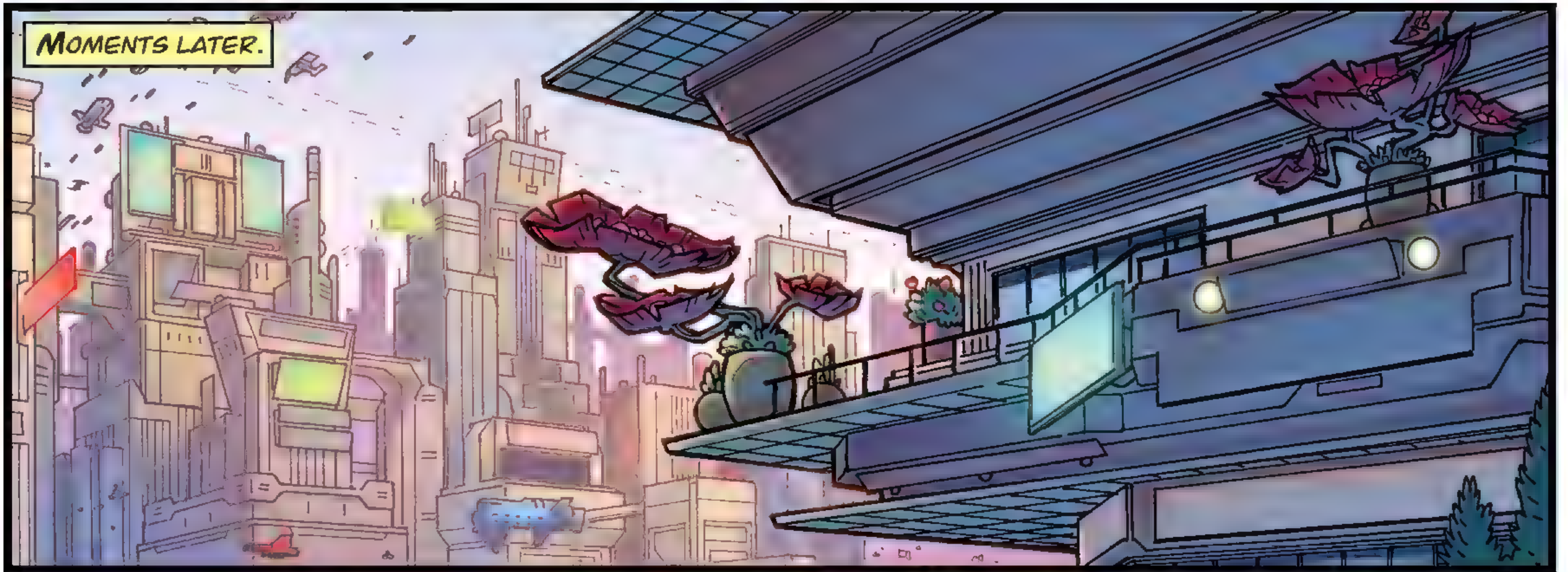
WHOA, MAN. YOU'RE GOING TO BE OLDER THAN ME SOON.

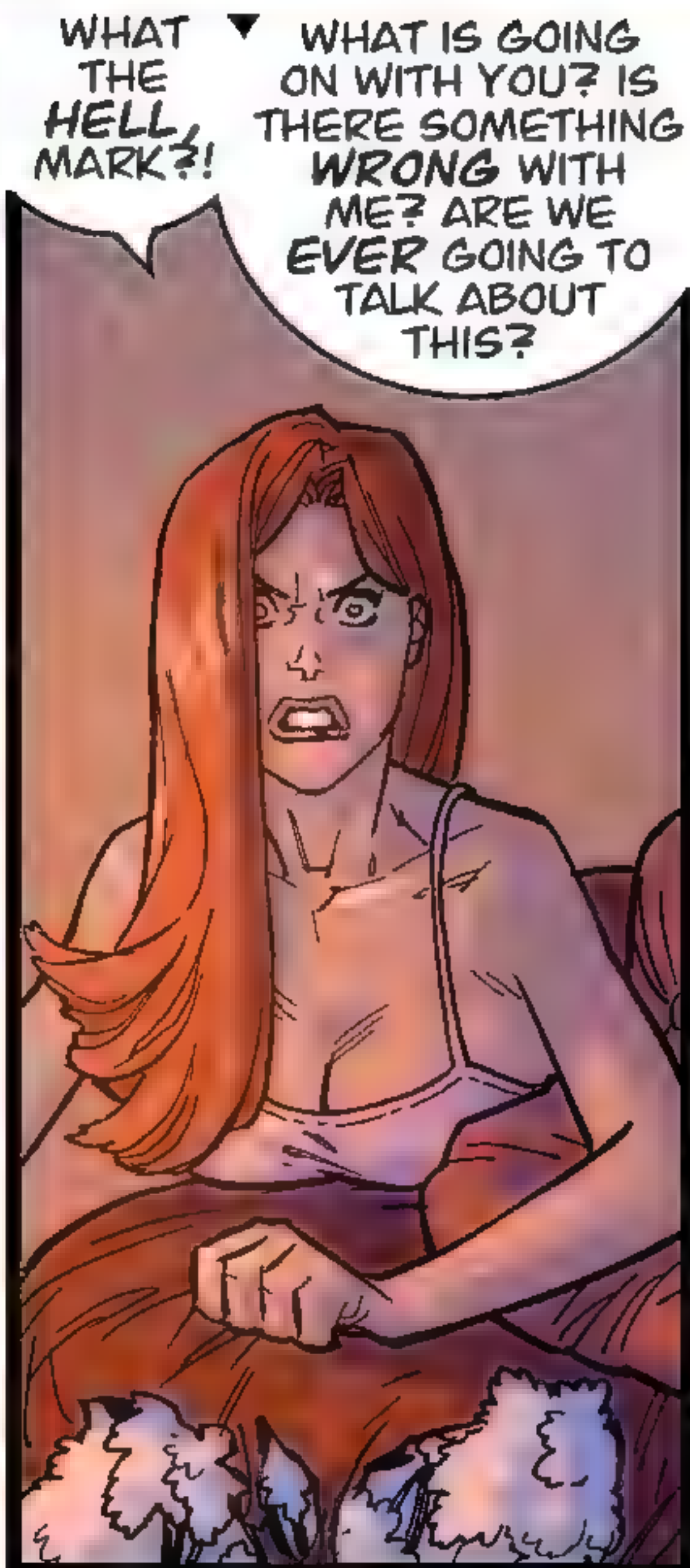
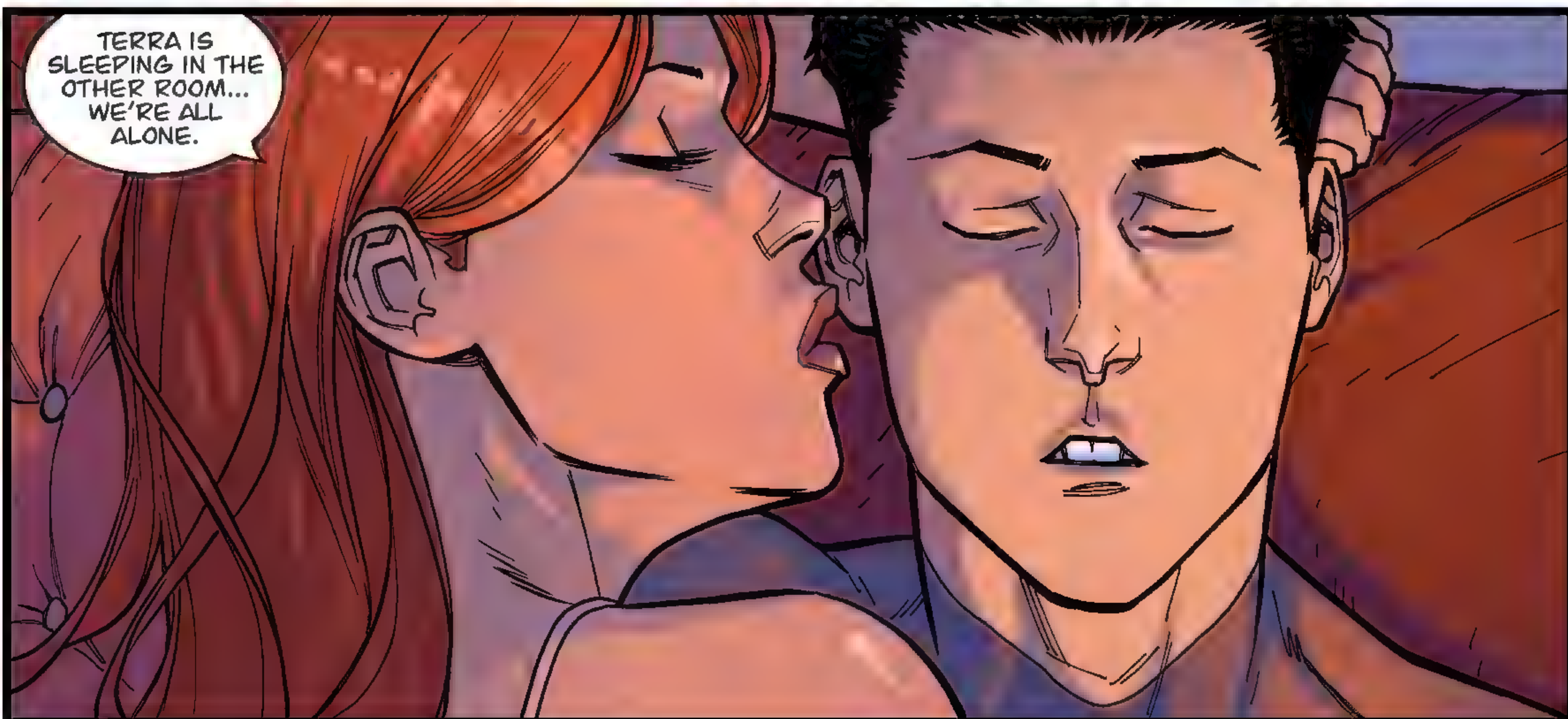
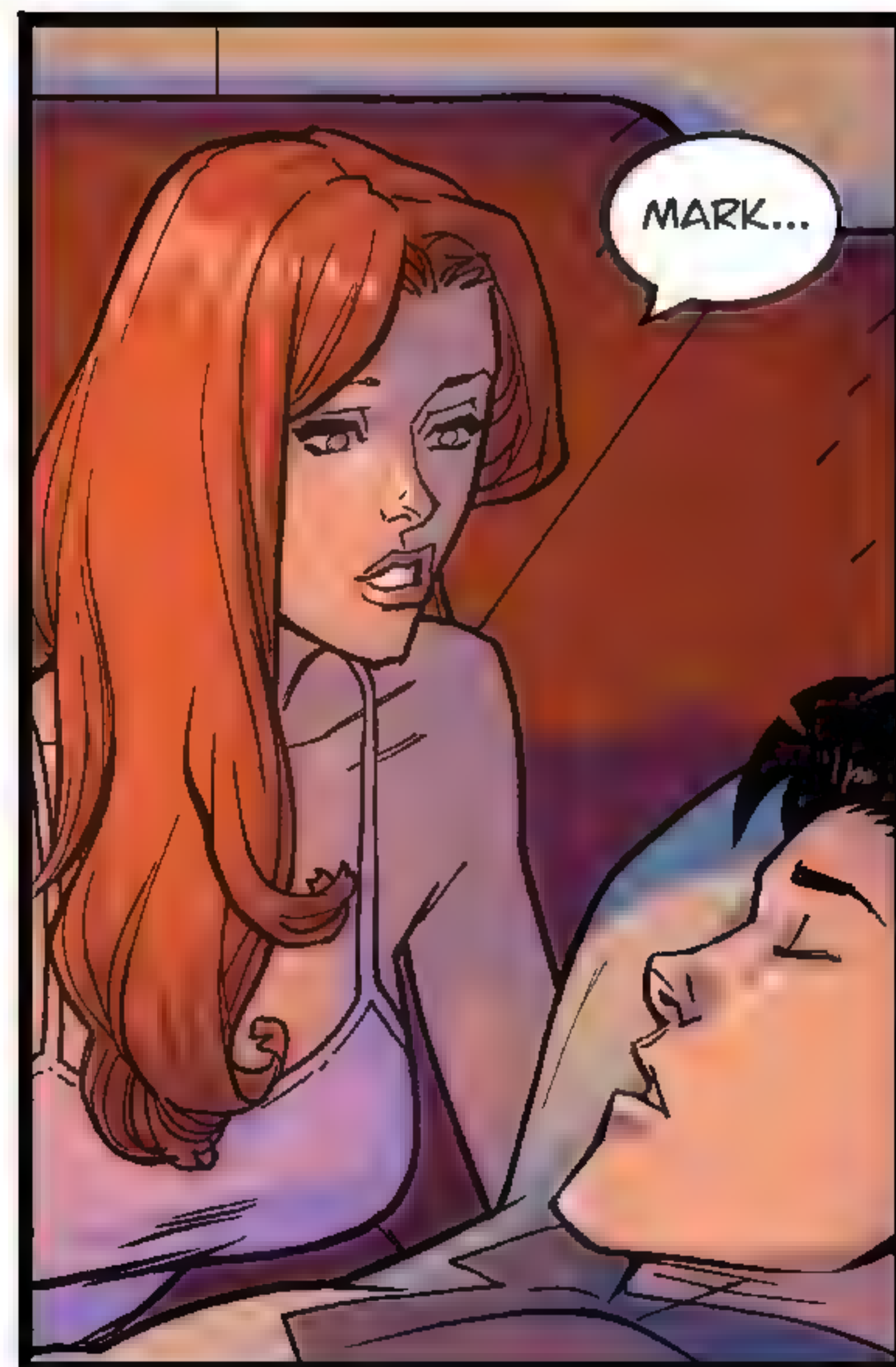
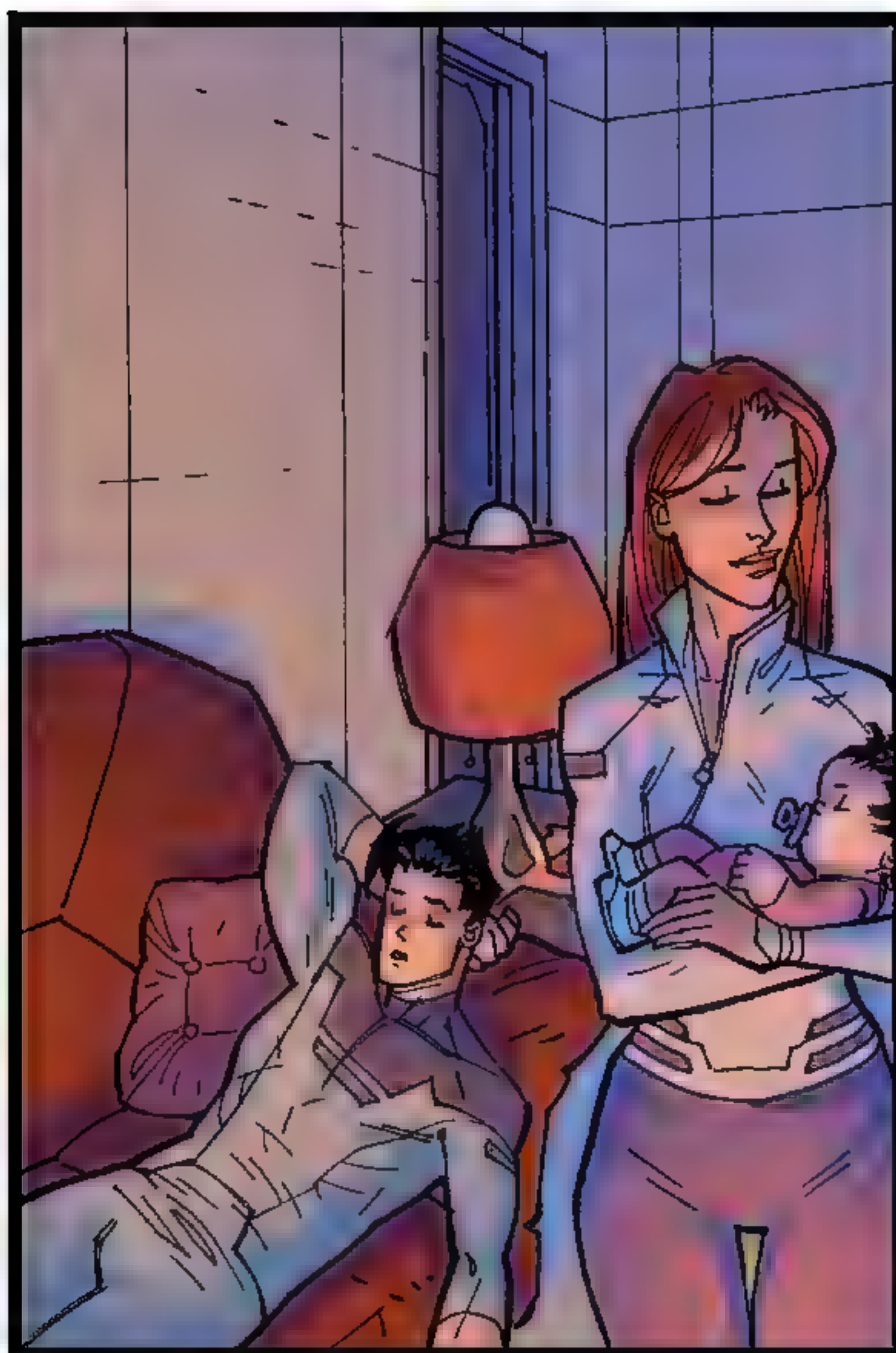
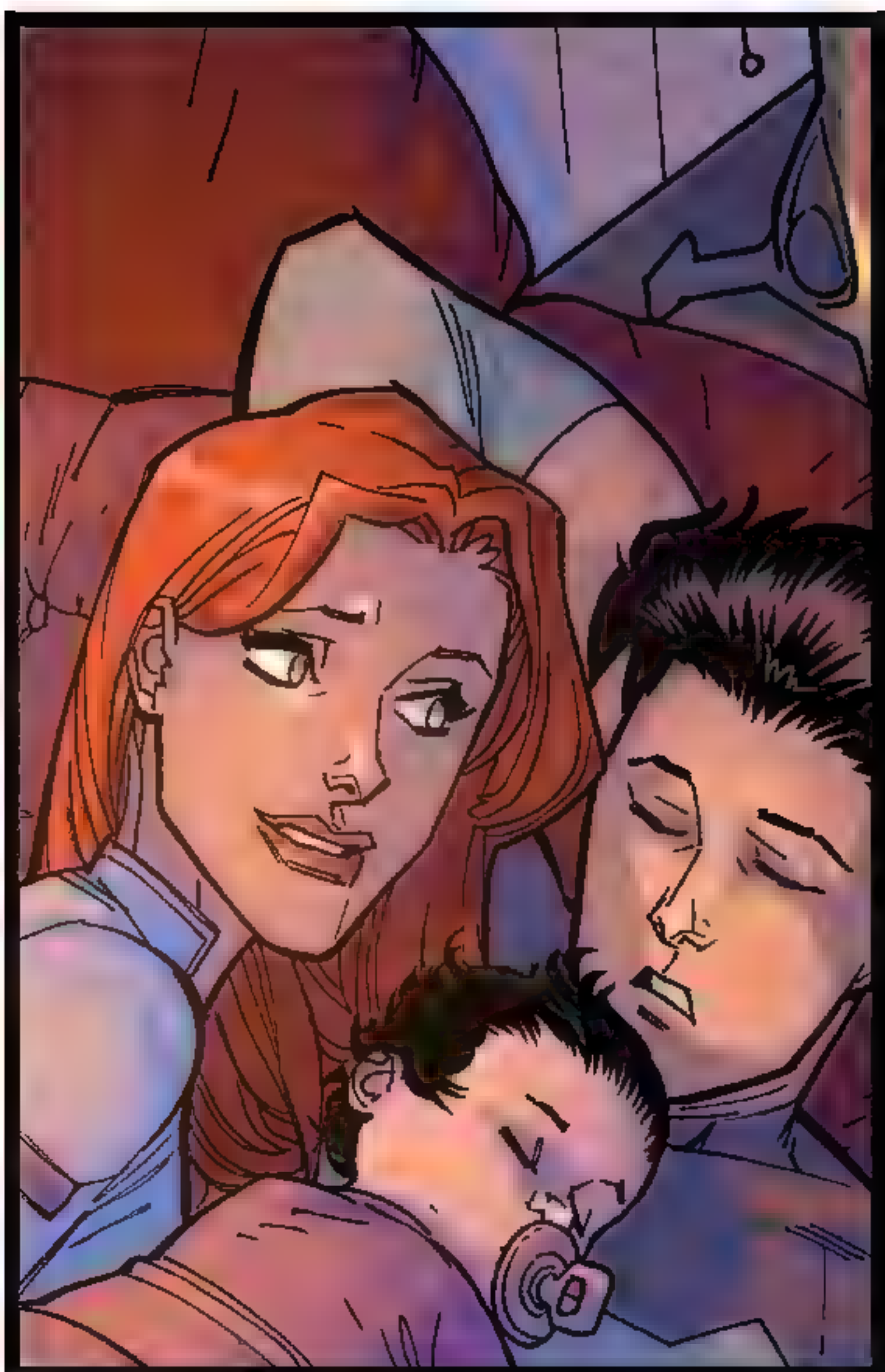
THIS IS CRAZY.

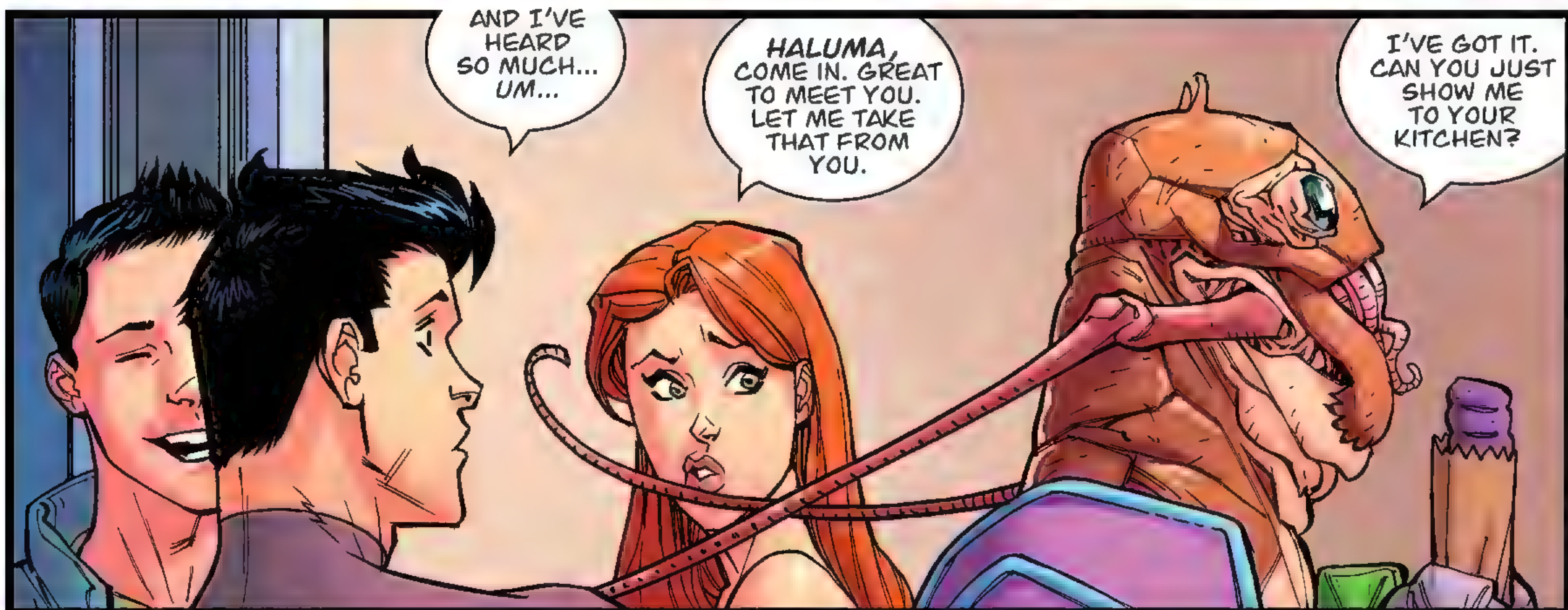
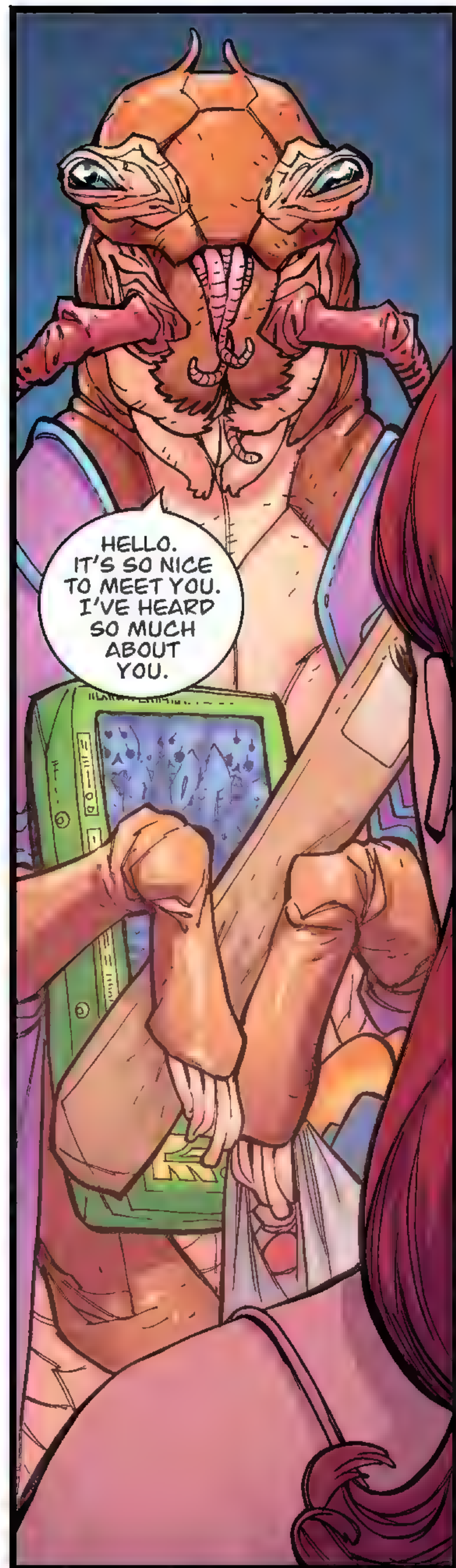
WELL, MY AGING IS SLOWING AS I GET OLDER... WE'LL PROBABLY BE THE SAME AGE FOR A WHILE, BIG BROTHER.

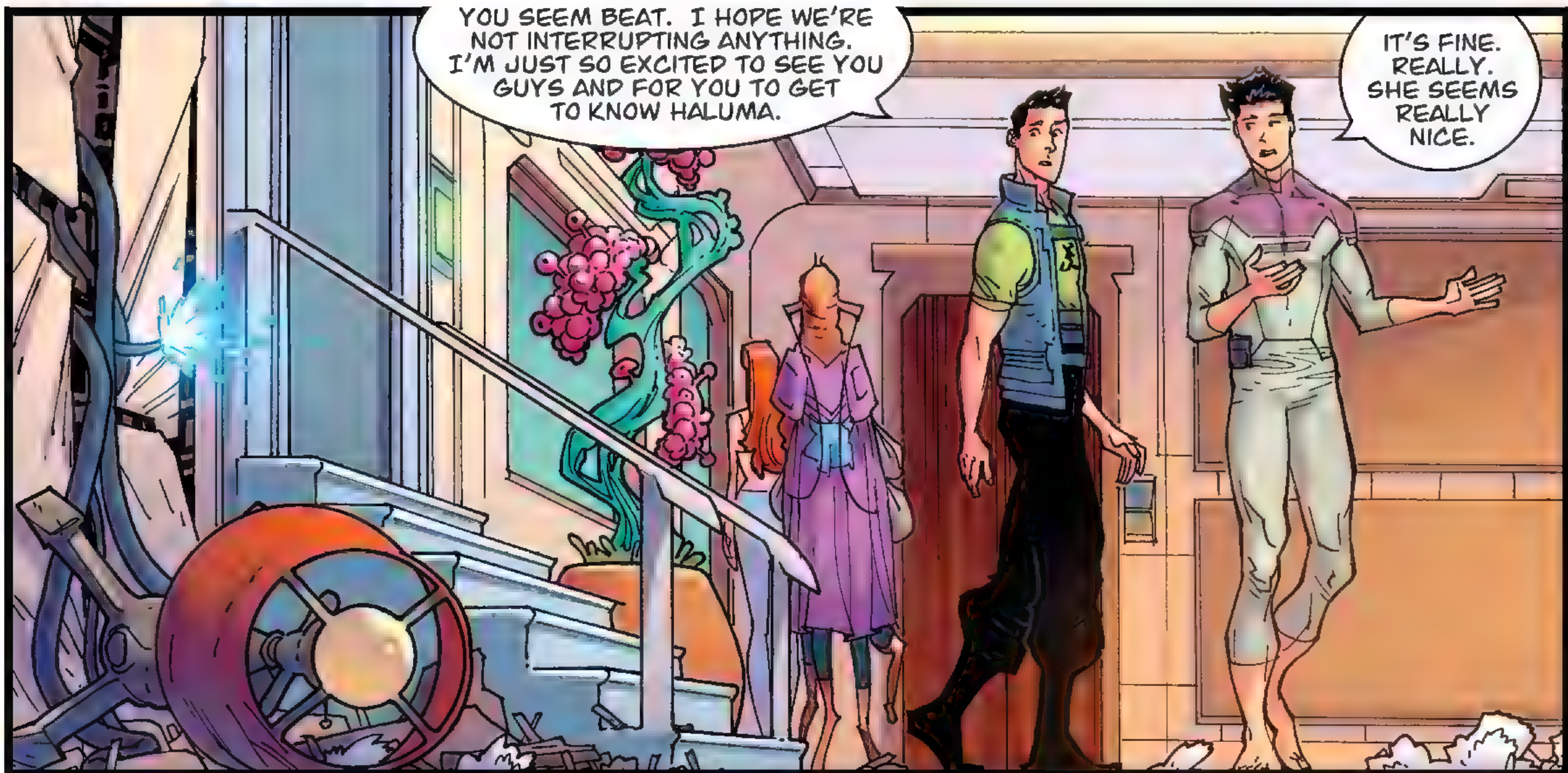




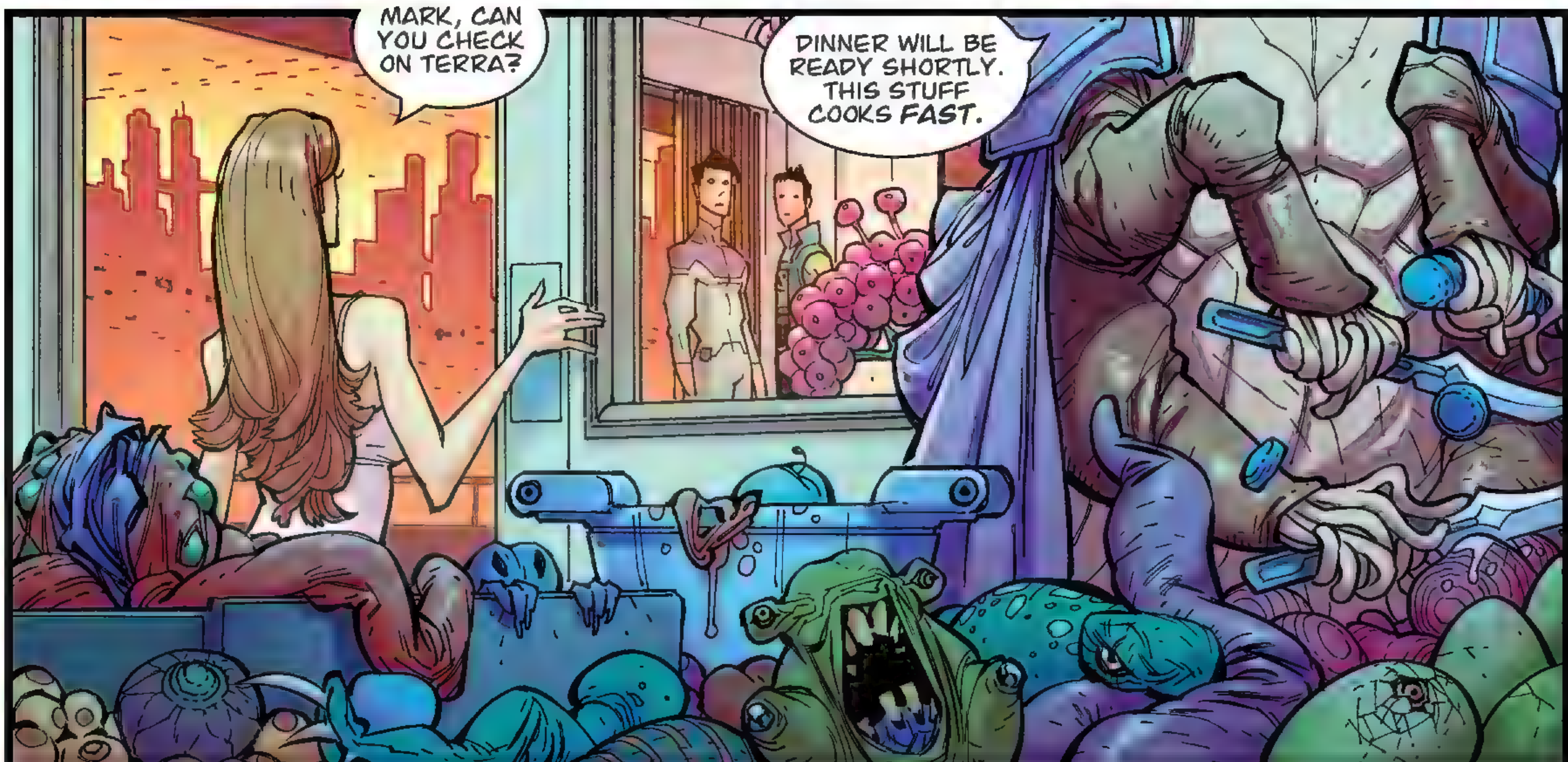
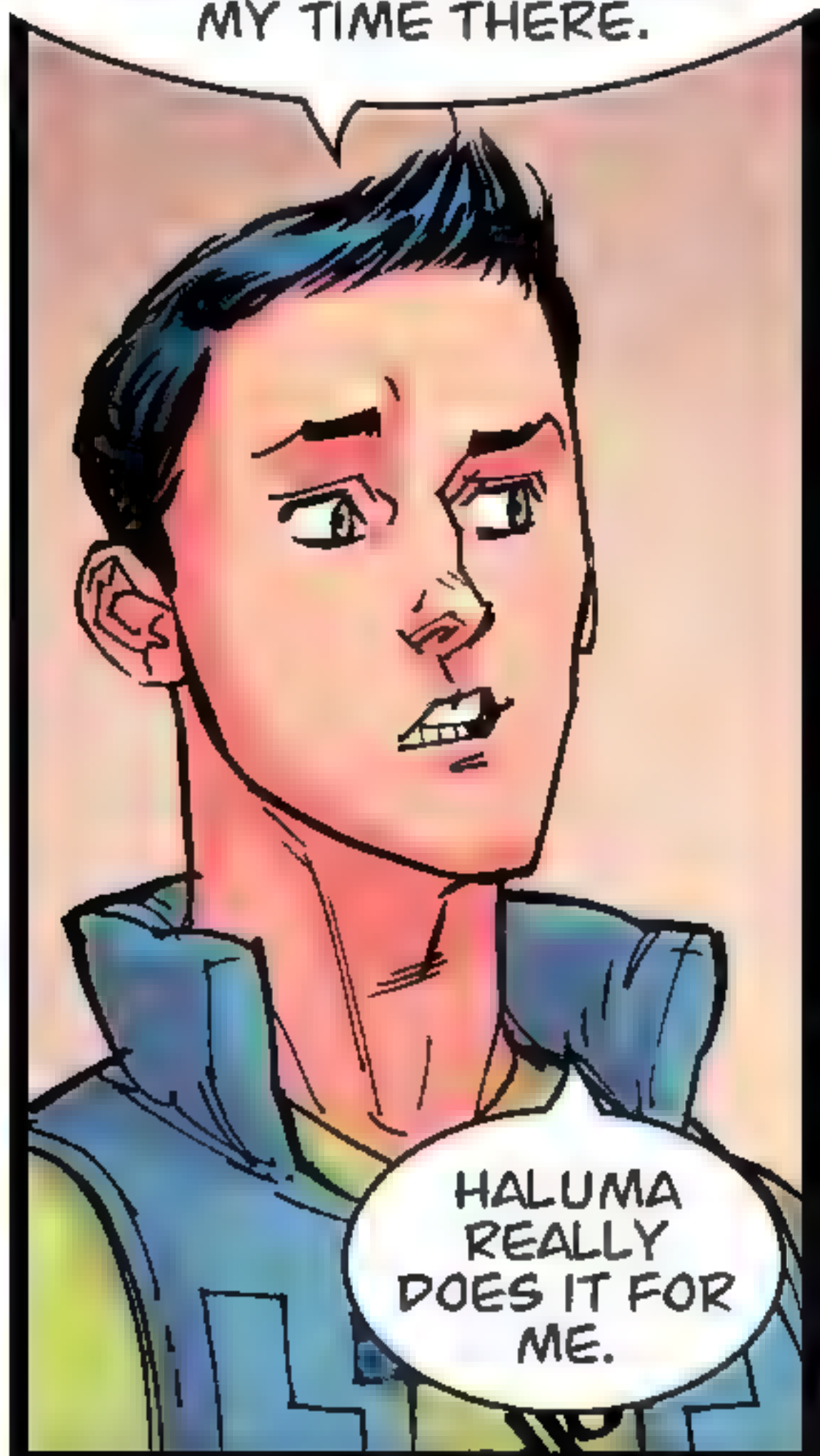


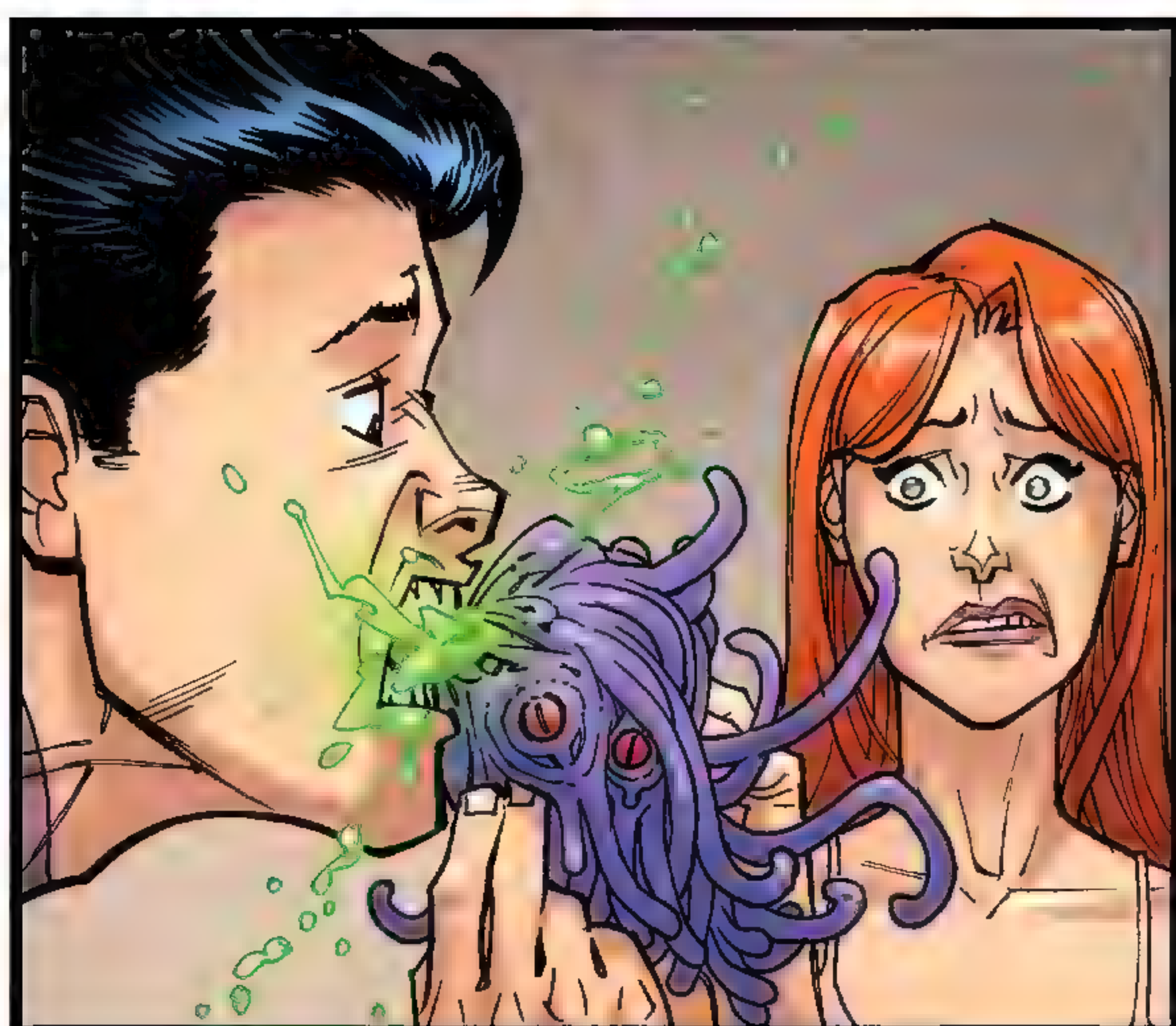
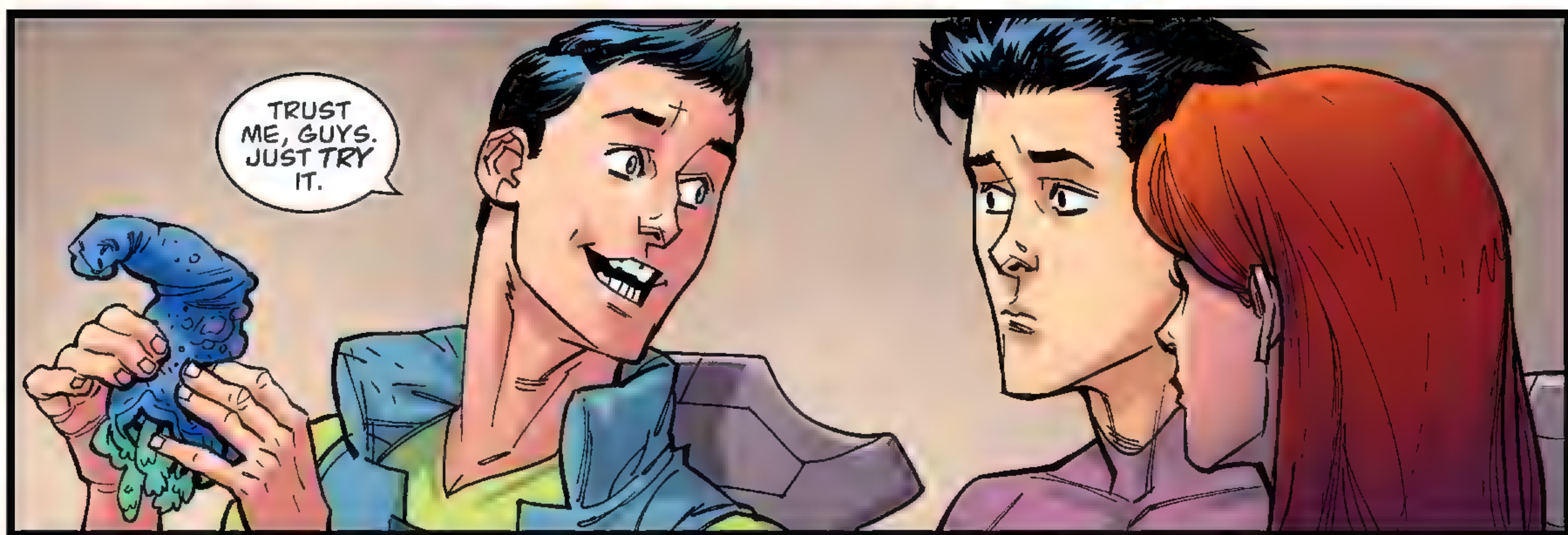
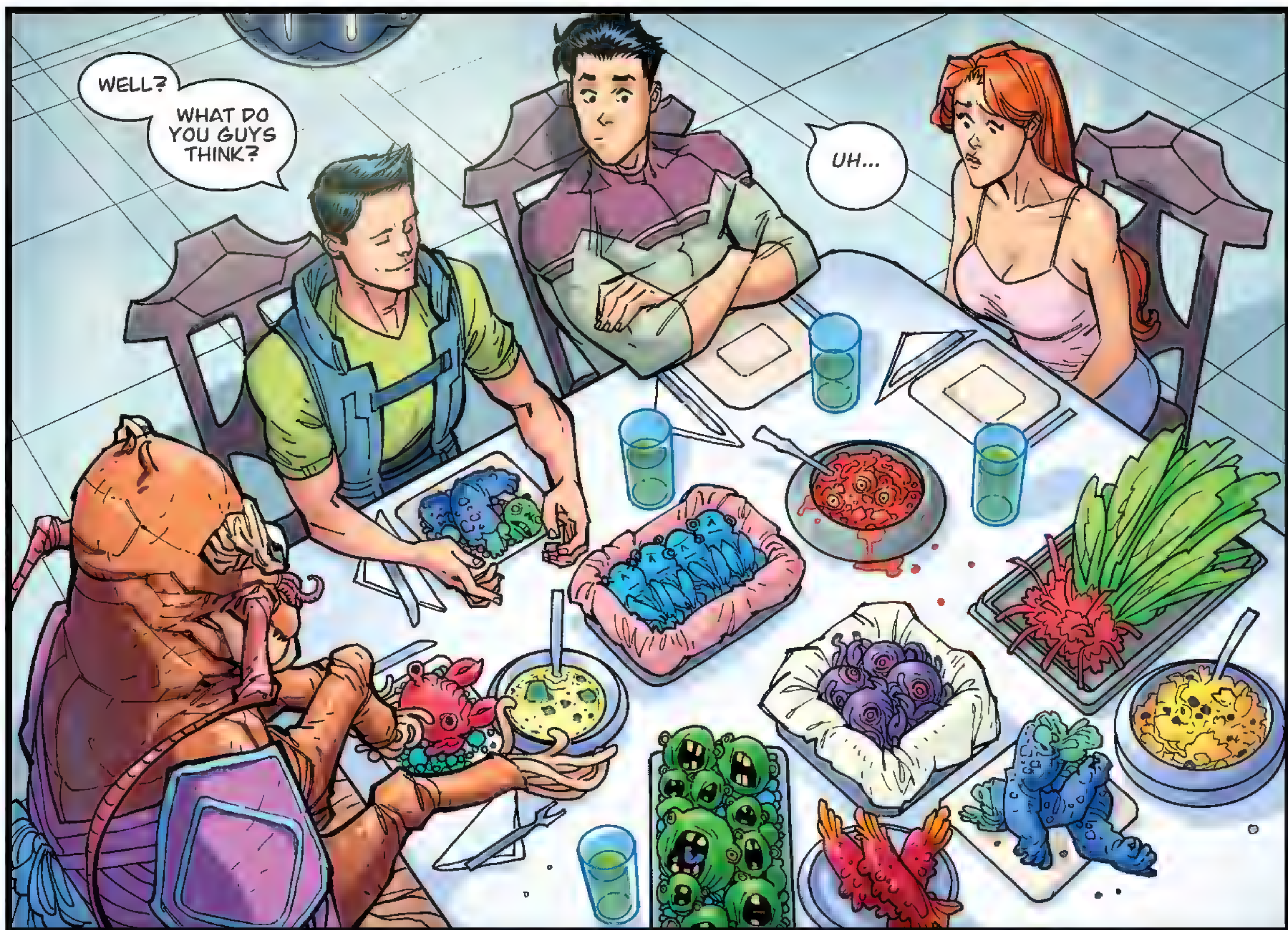






I KNOW SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE IDEAL MATE TO YOU... BUT I THINK NOW YOU GET A SENSE OF HOW I SAW EVERYONE ON EARTH DURING MY TIME THERE.



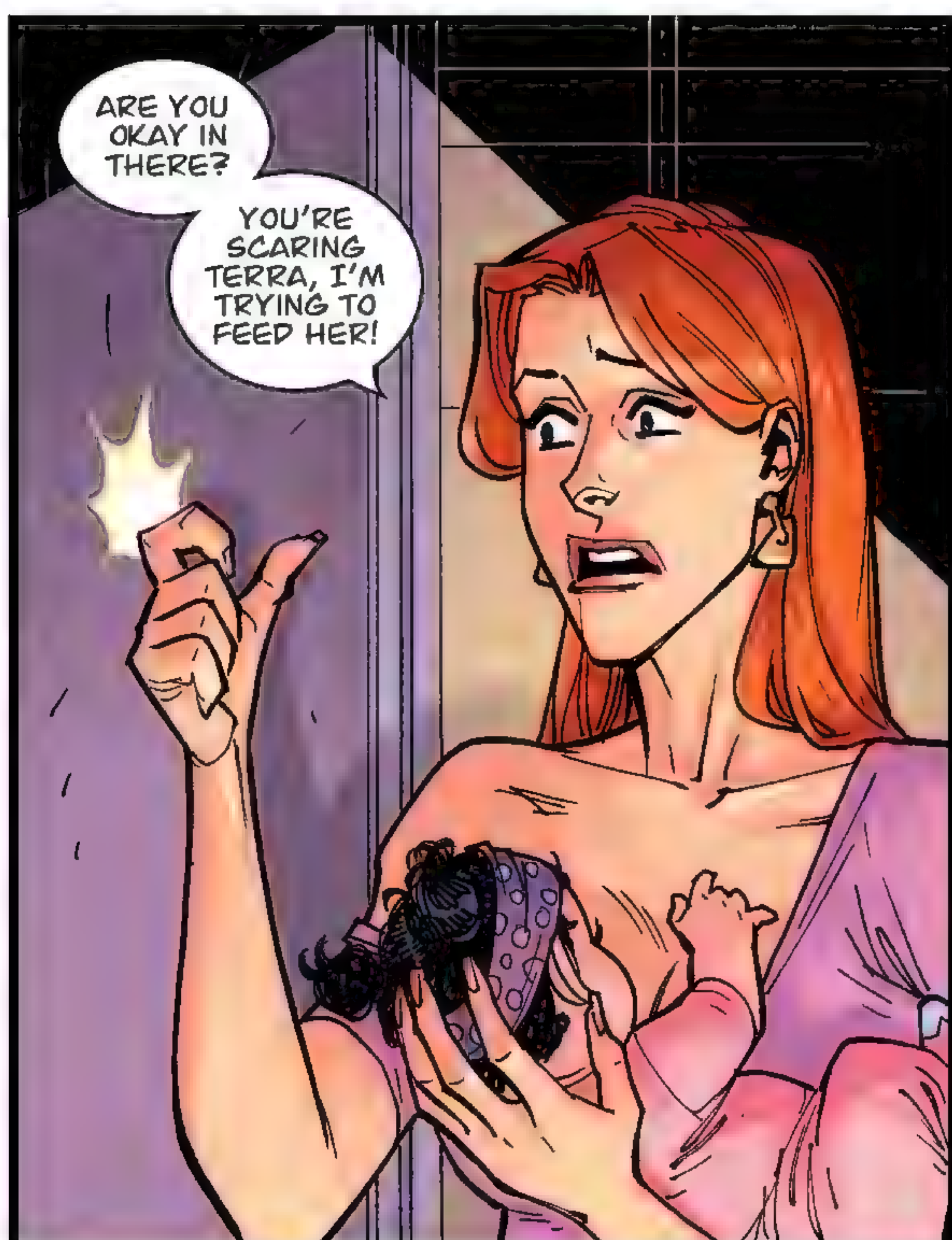


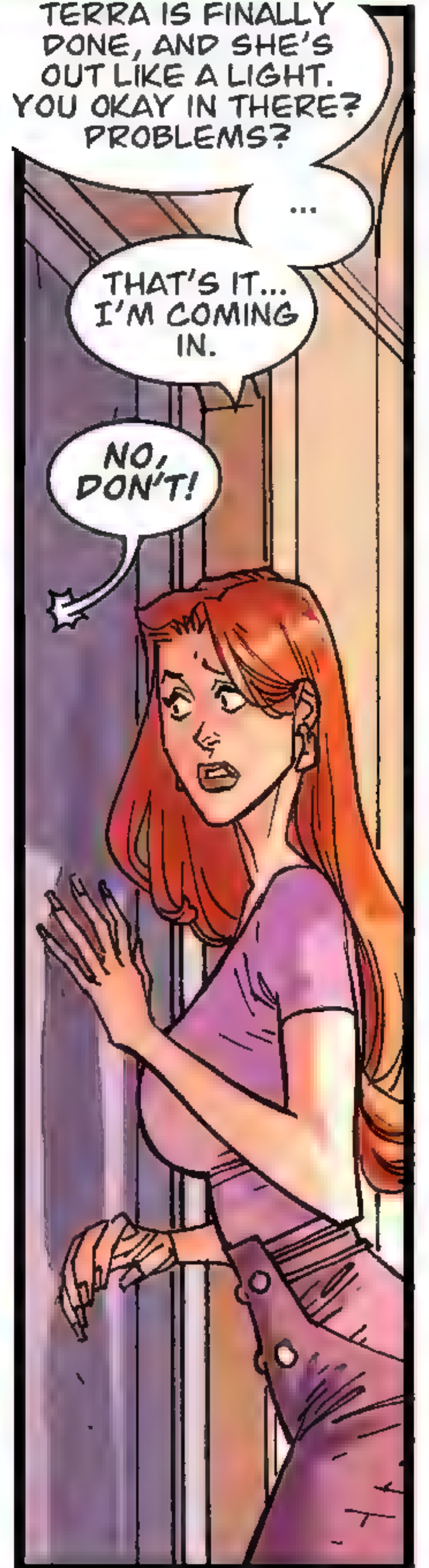
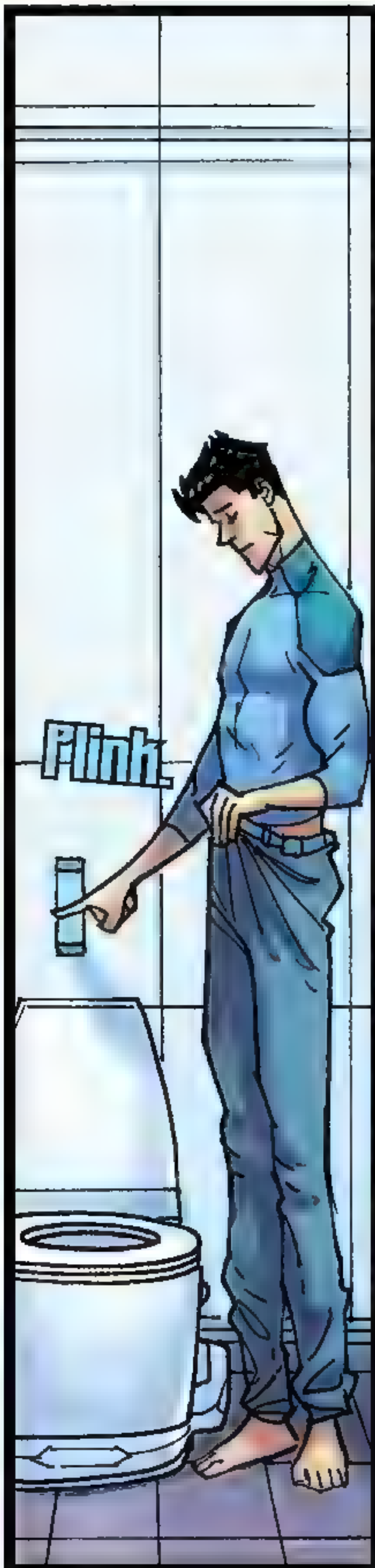
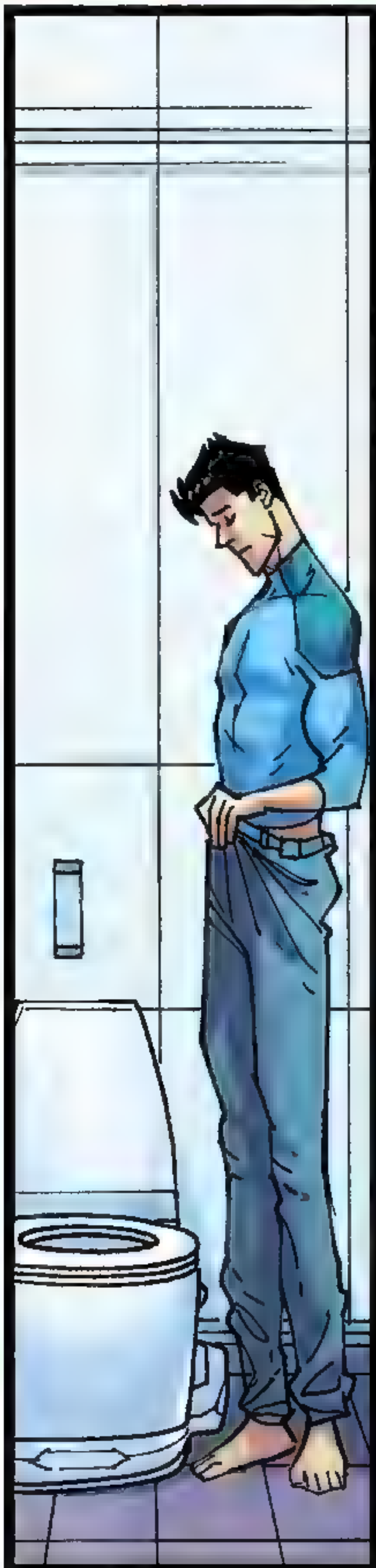
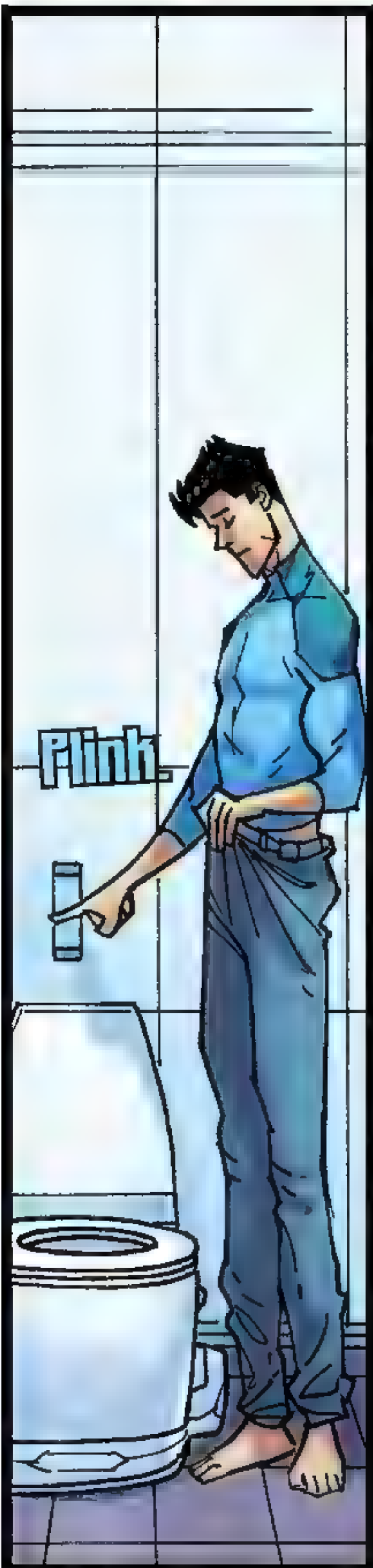
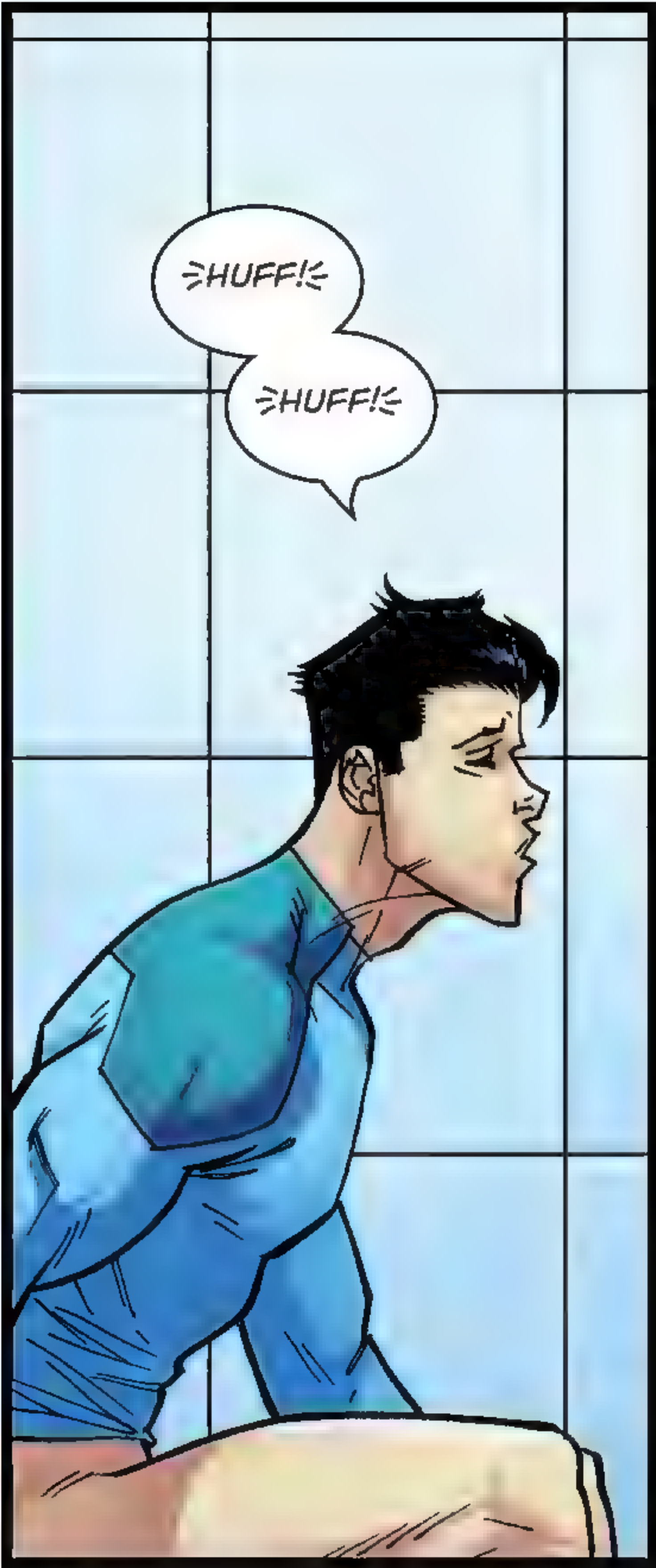
THE NEXT MORNING.

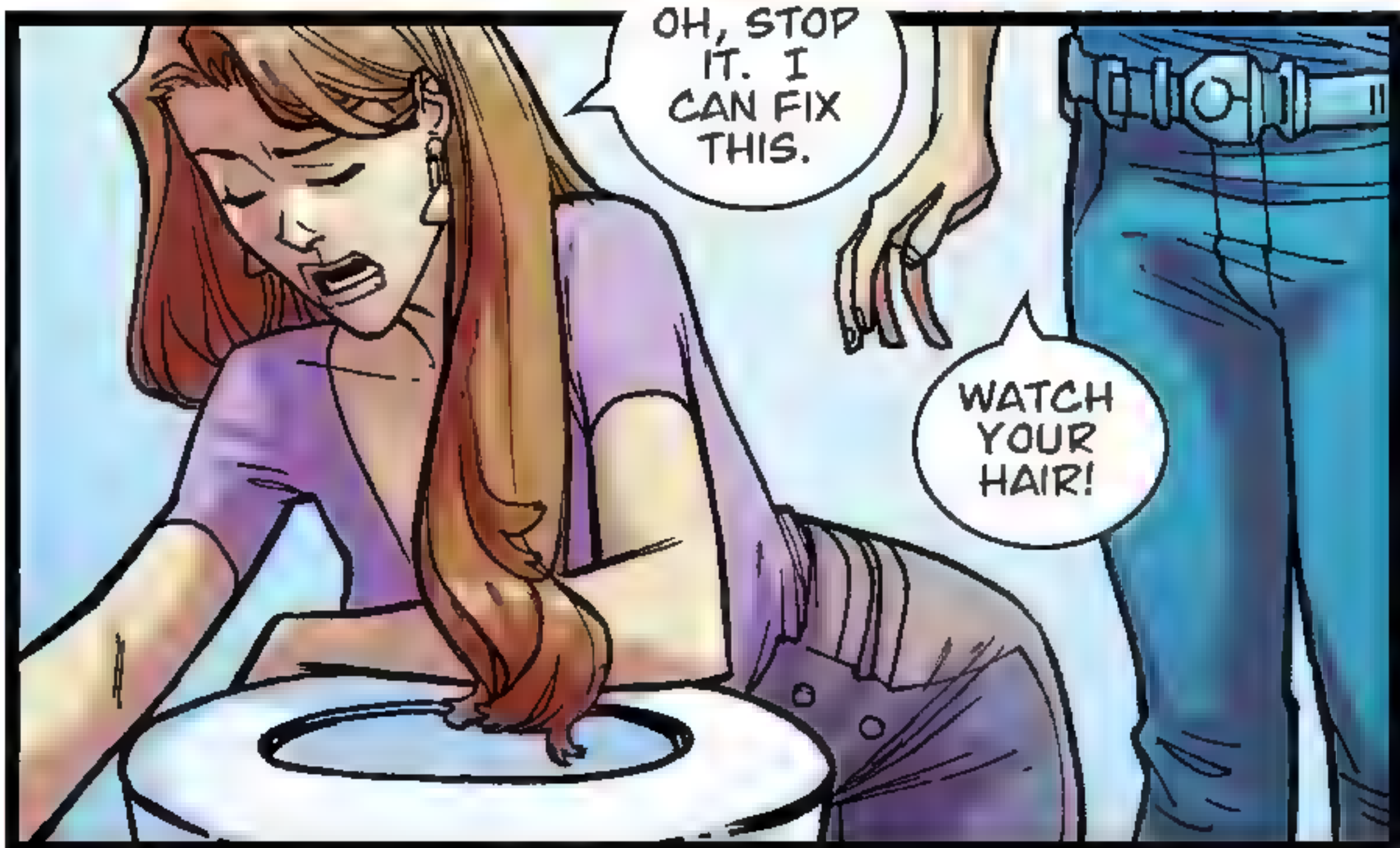
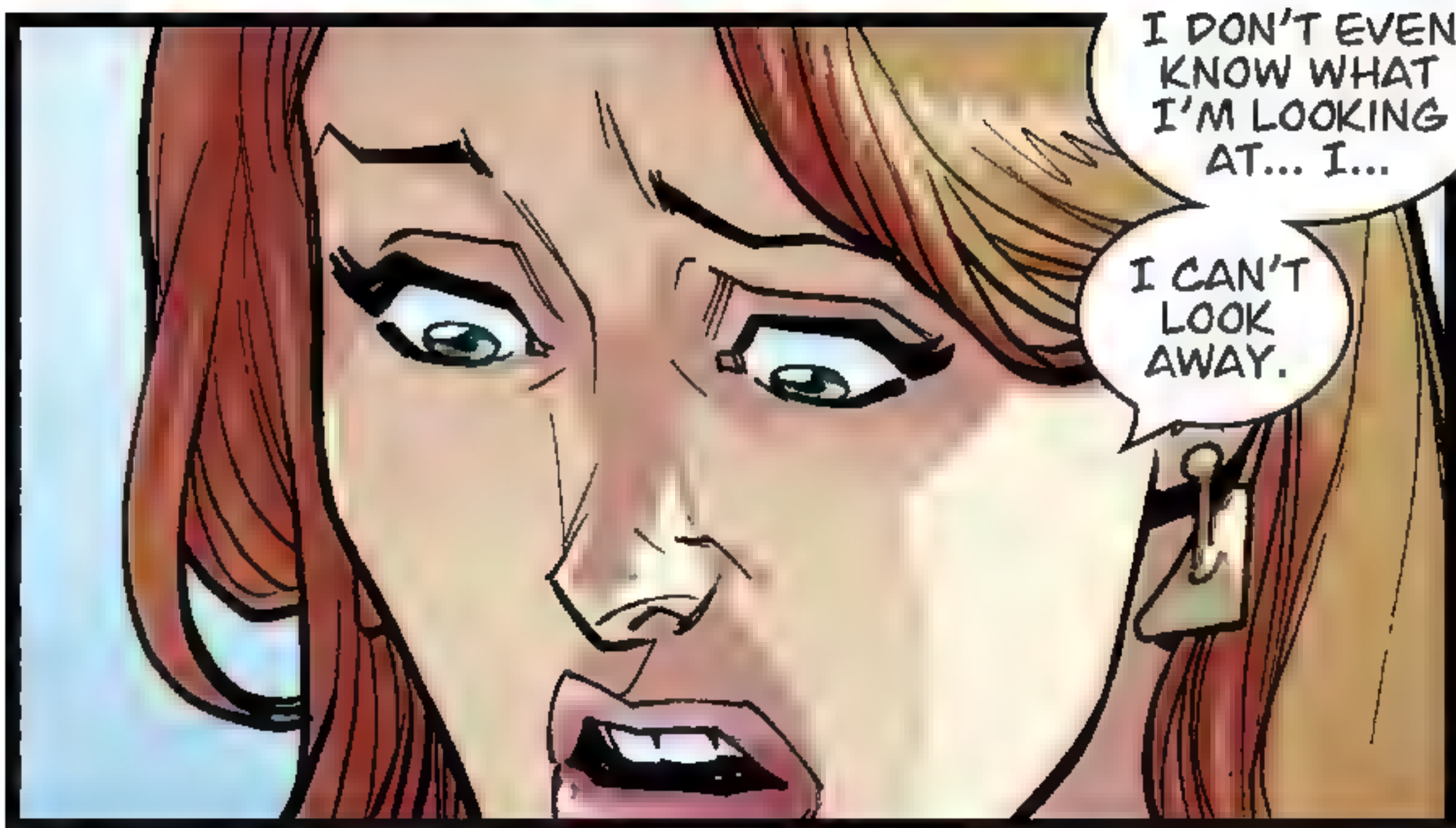
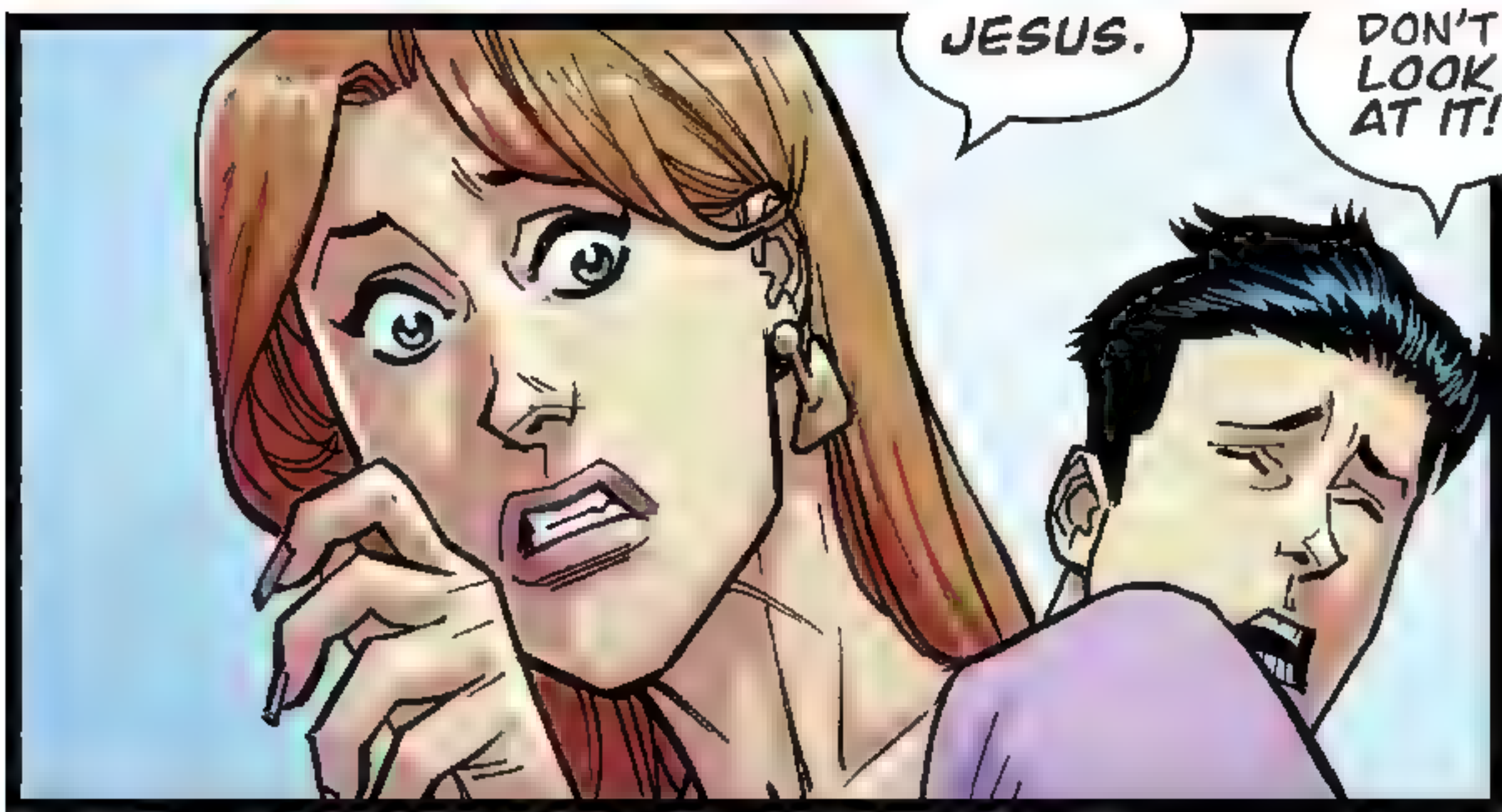
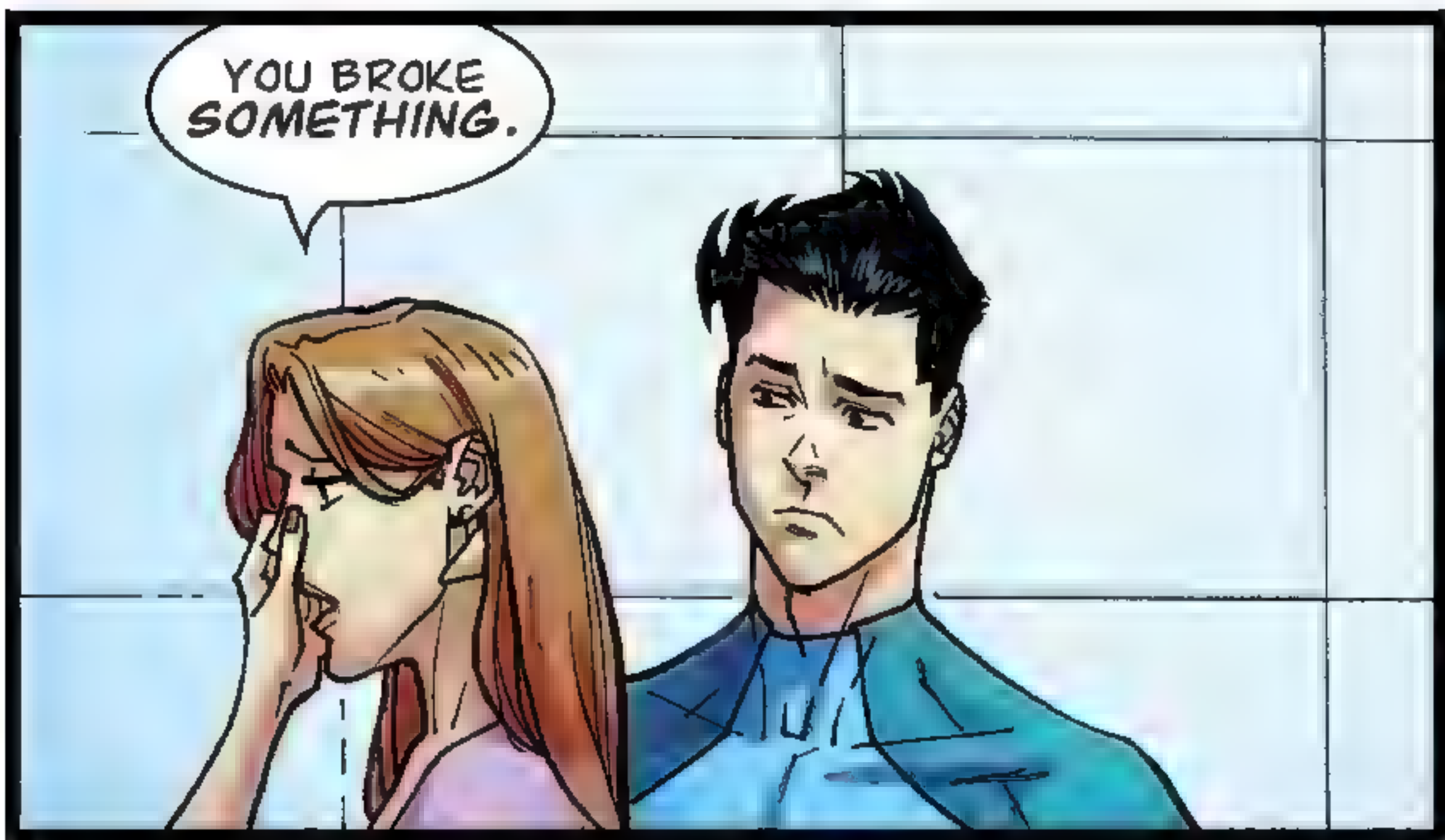
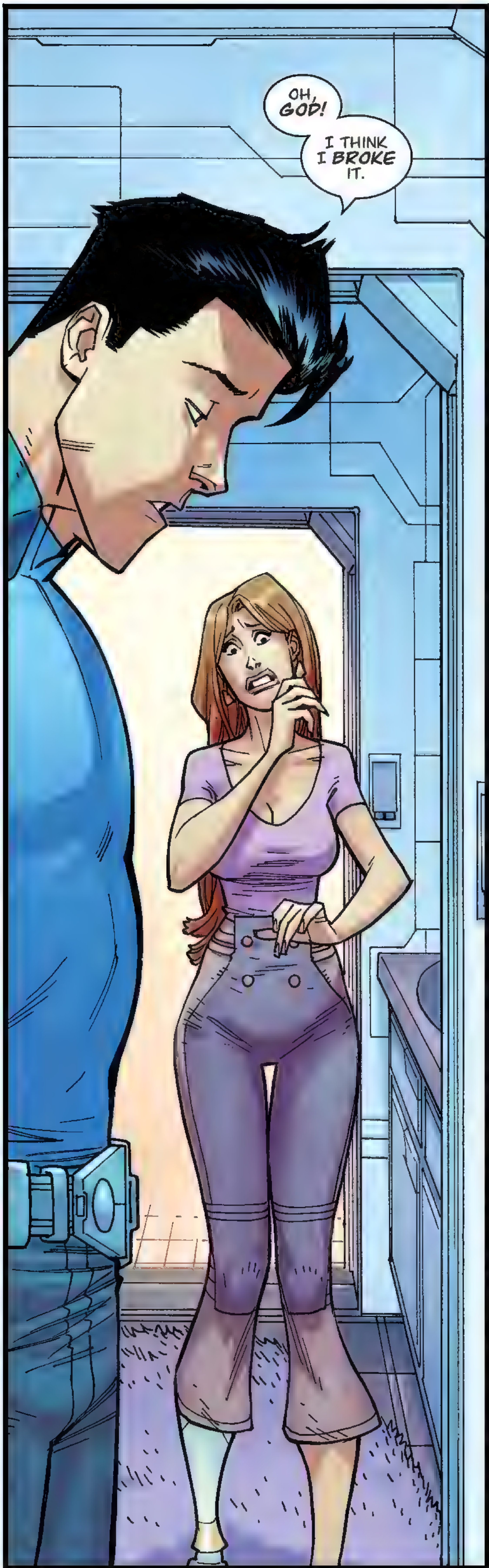
OH,
GOD.

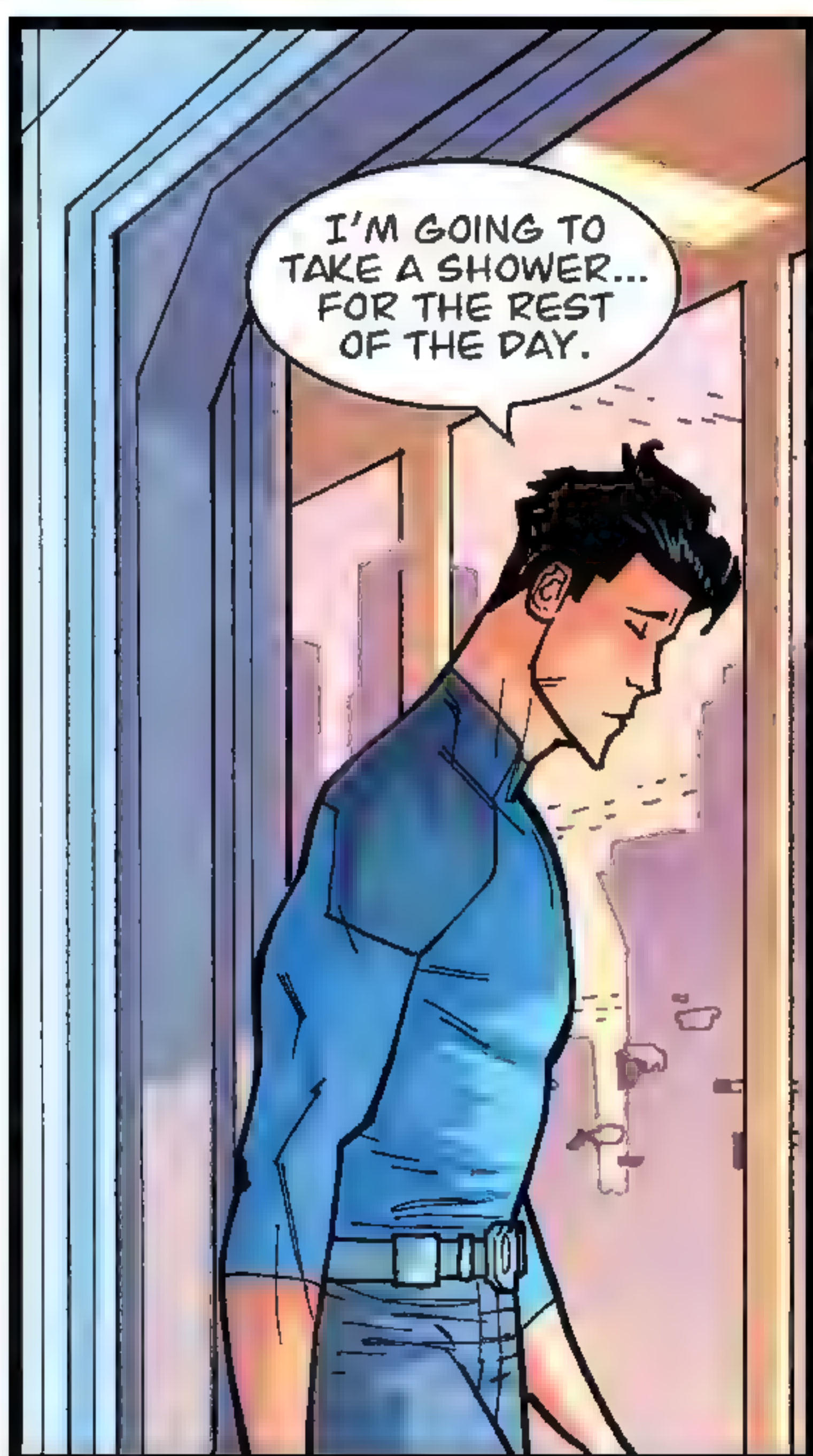
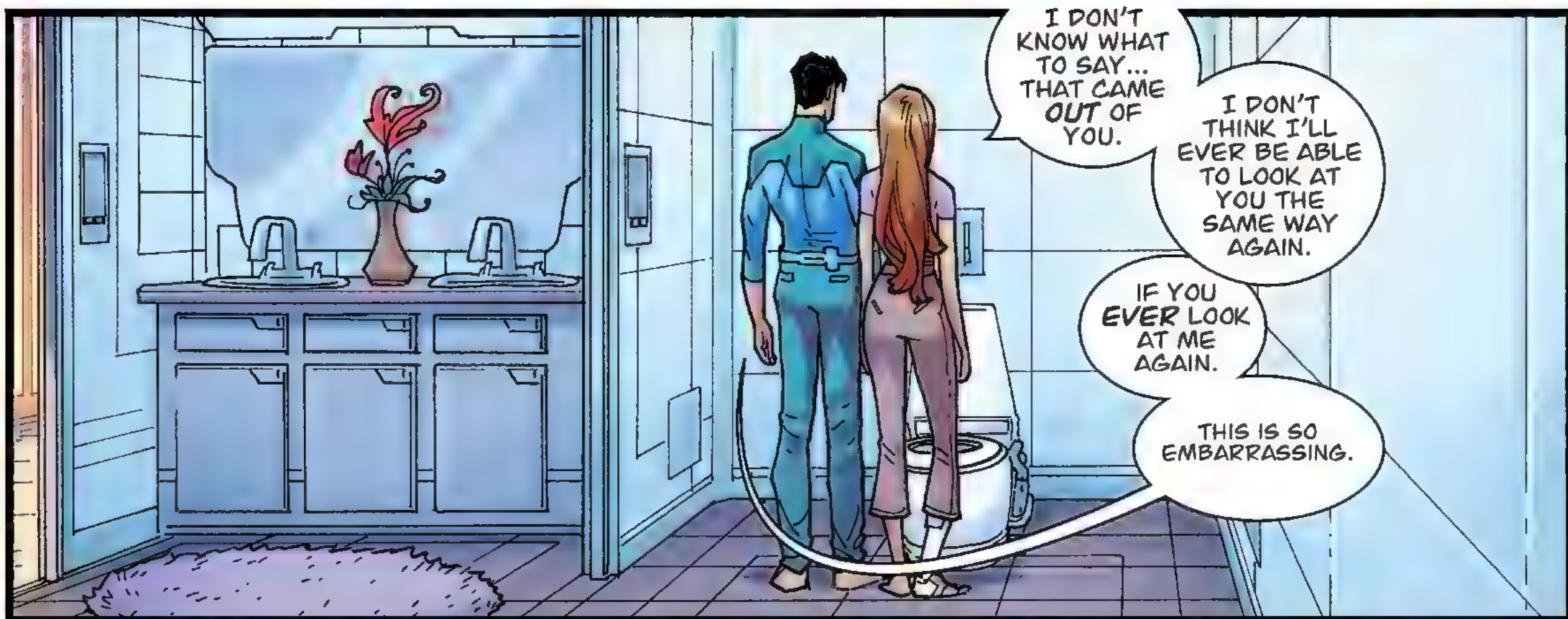
OH,
GOD!

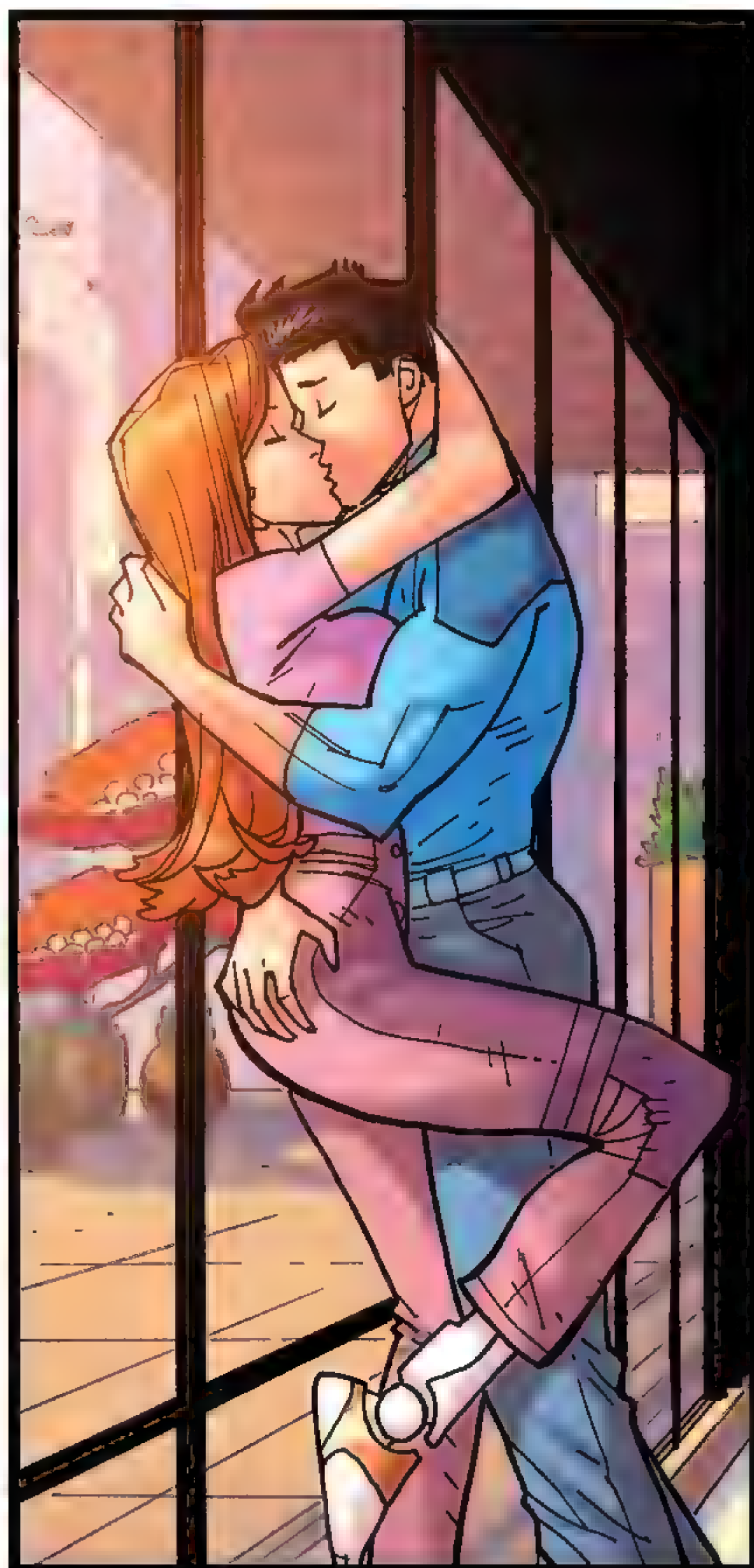
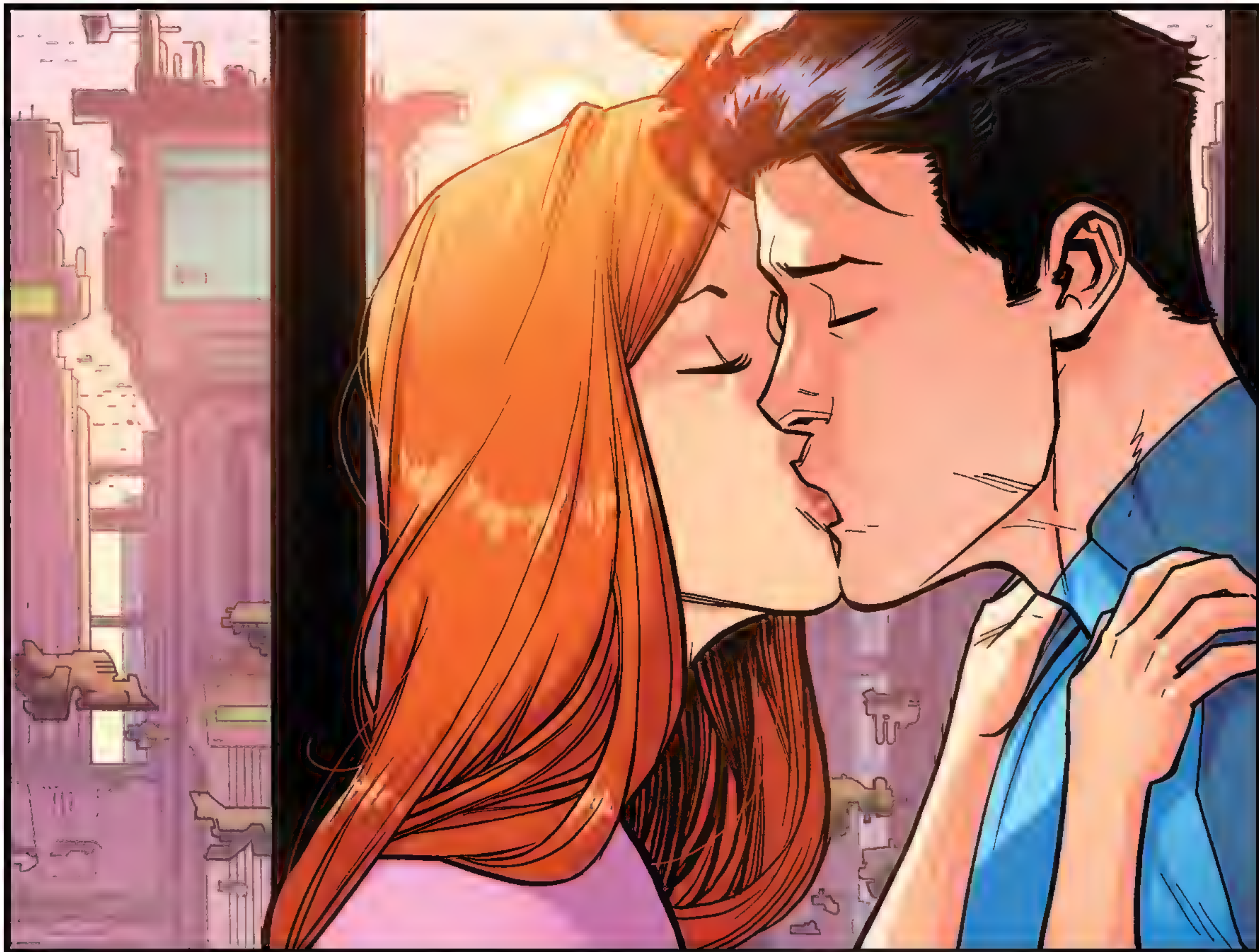
**OH,
GOD!**

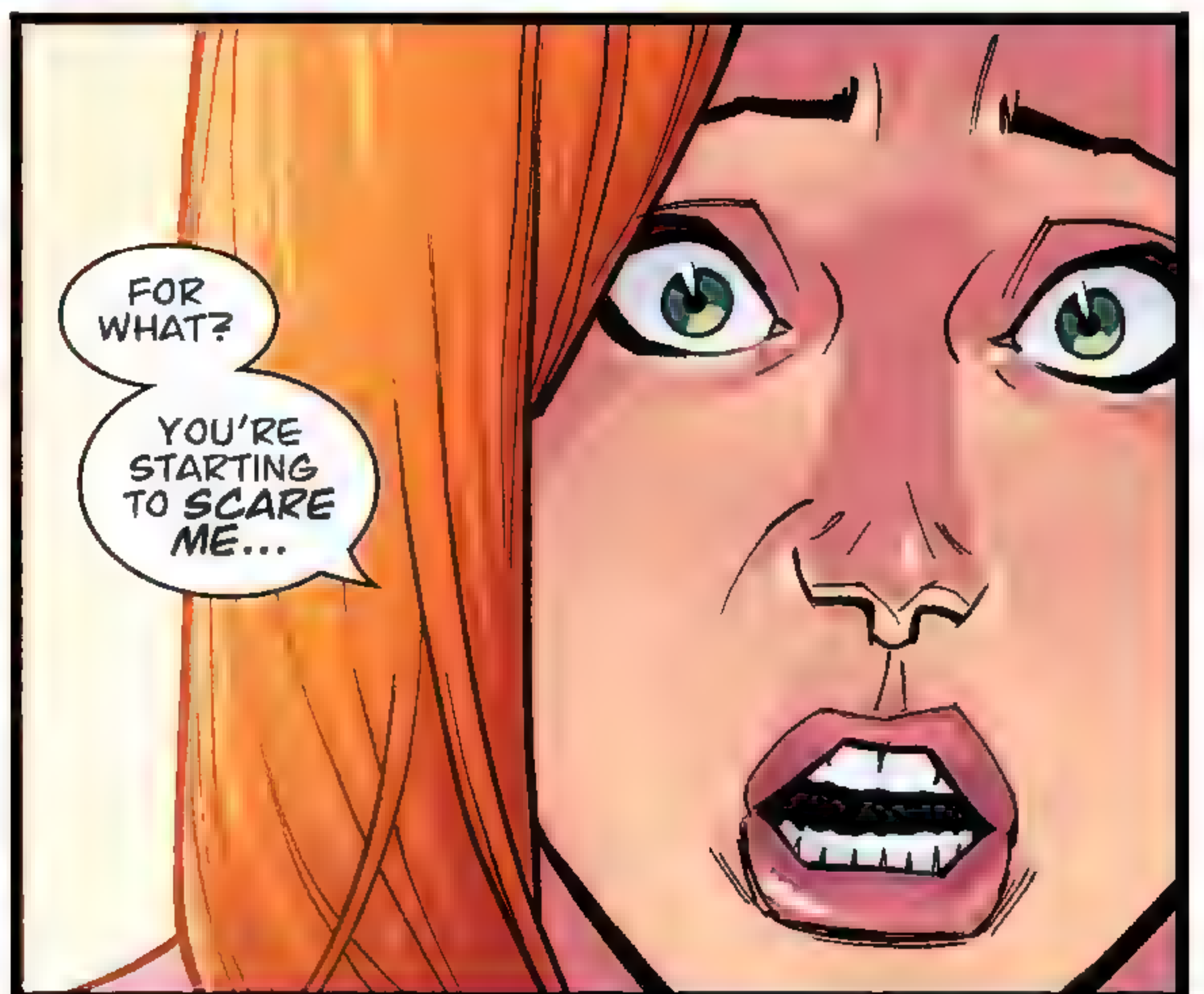
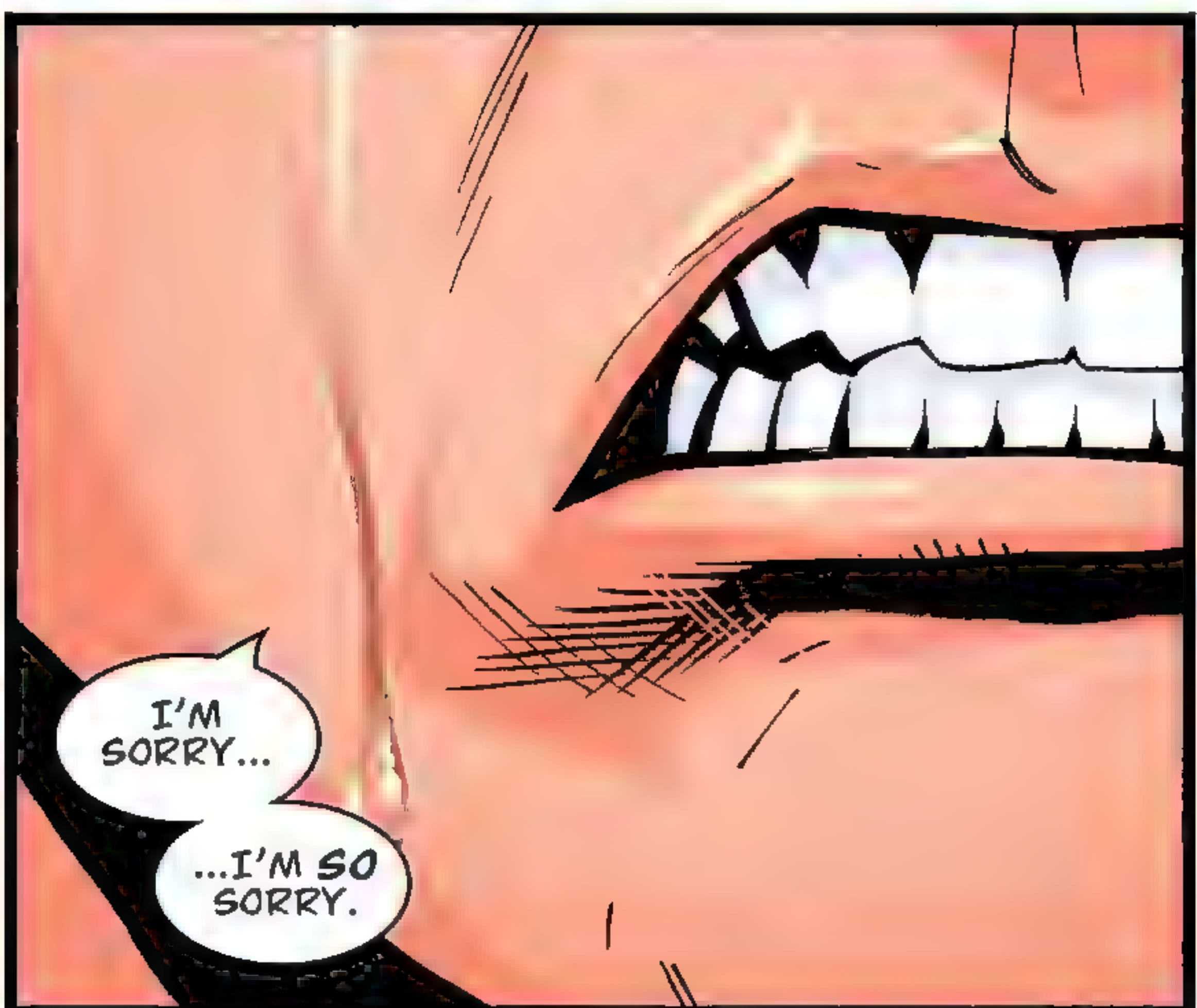
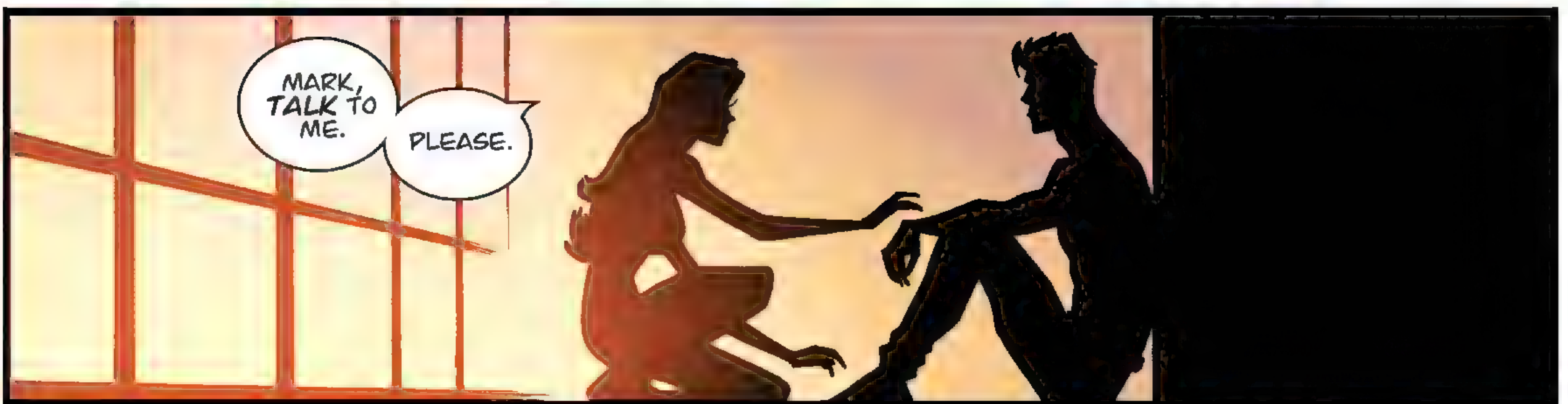
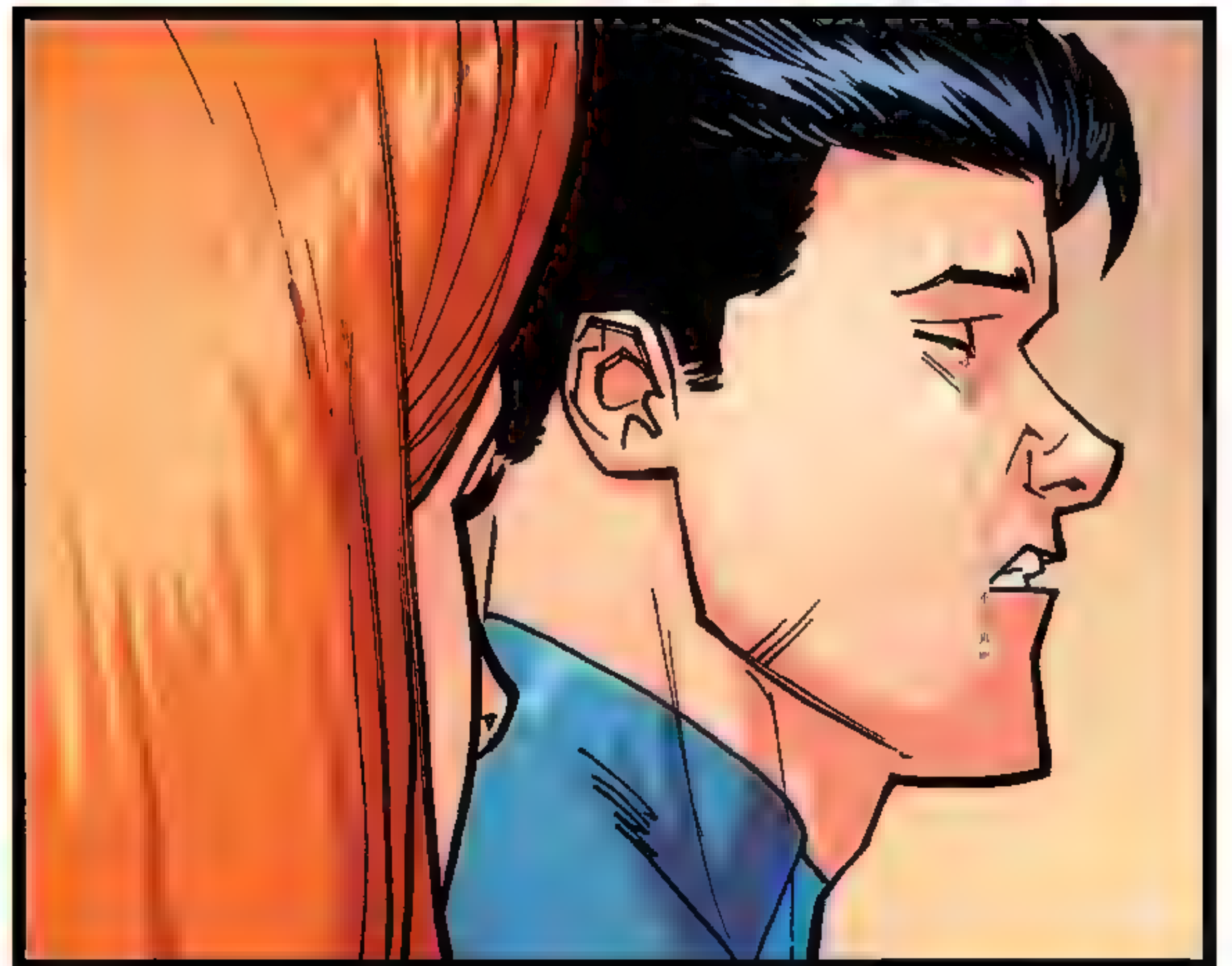
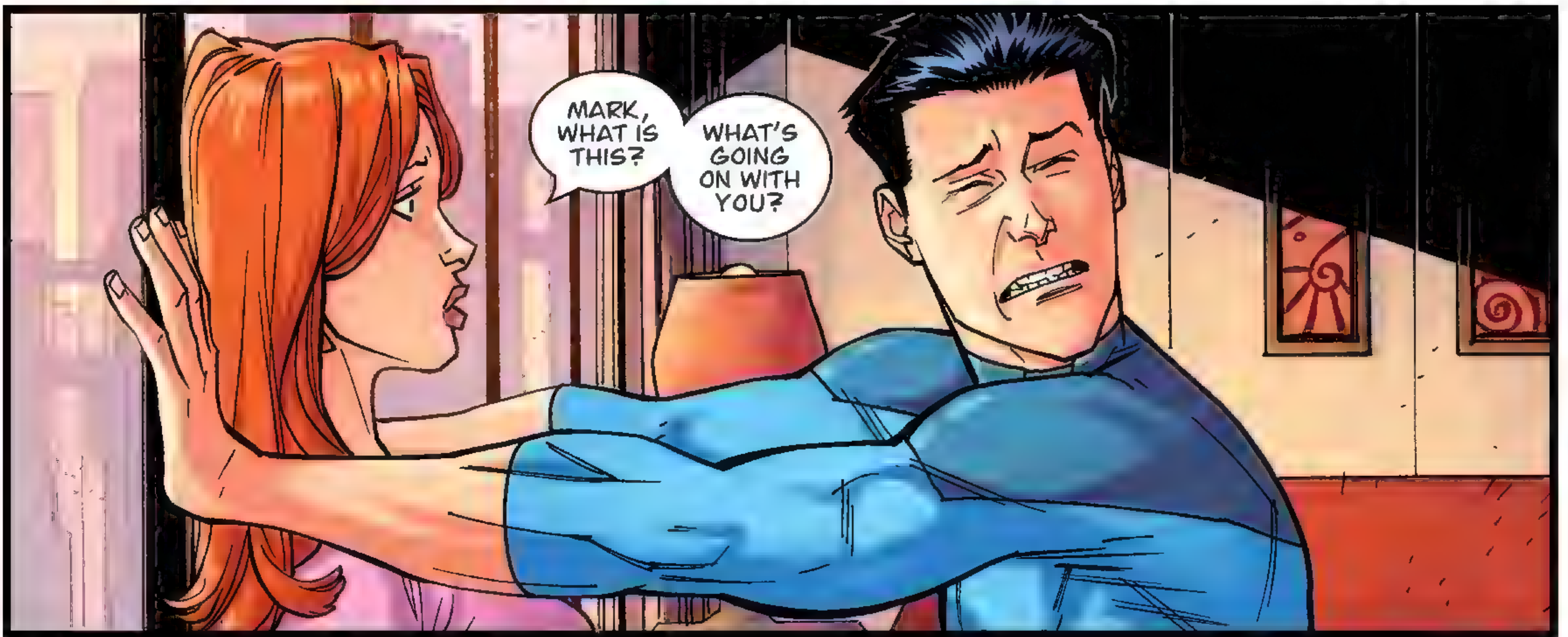


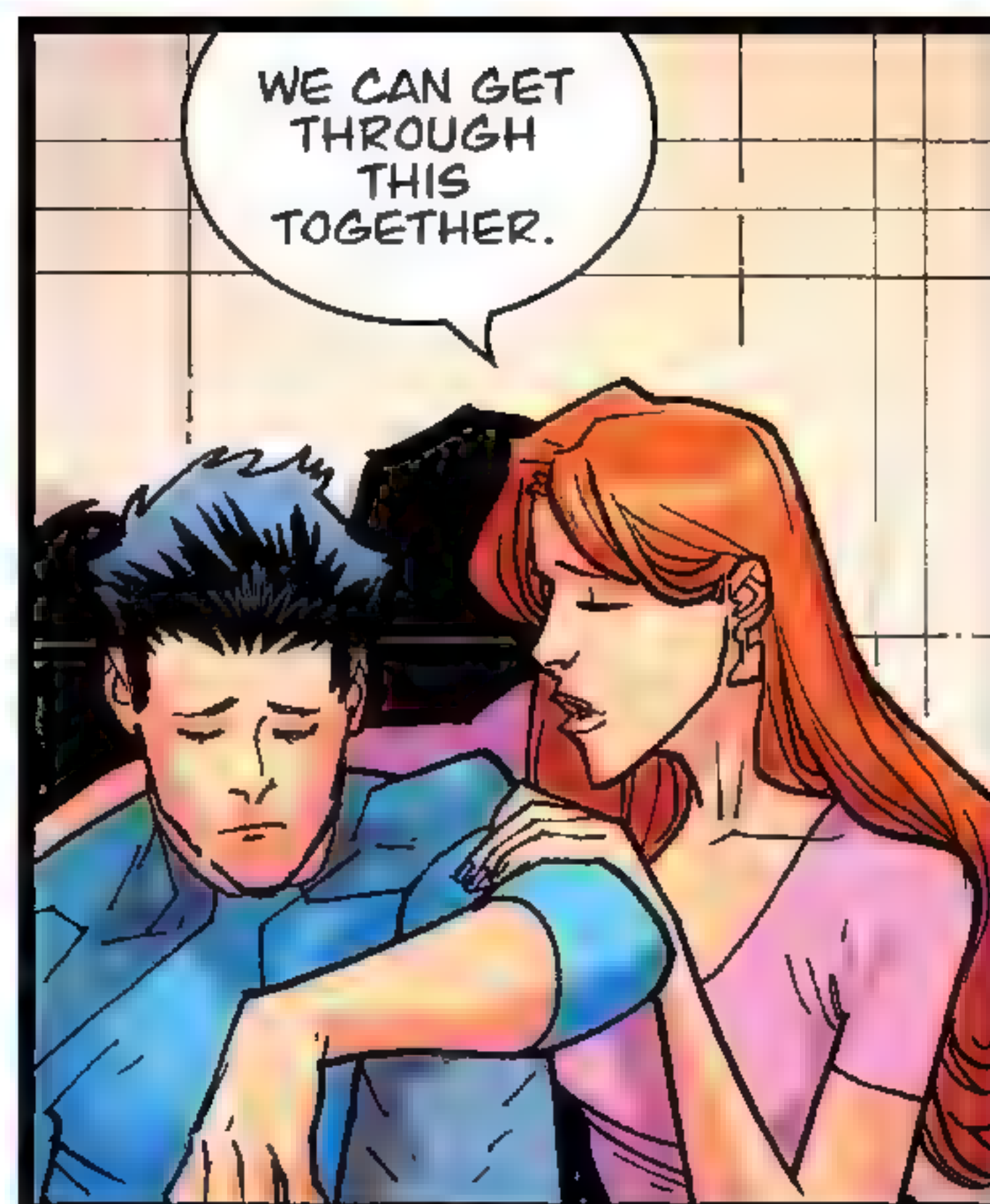
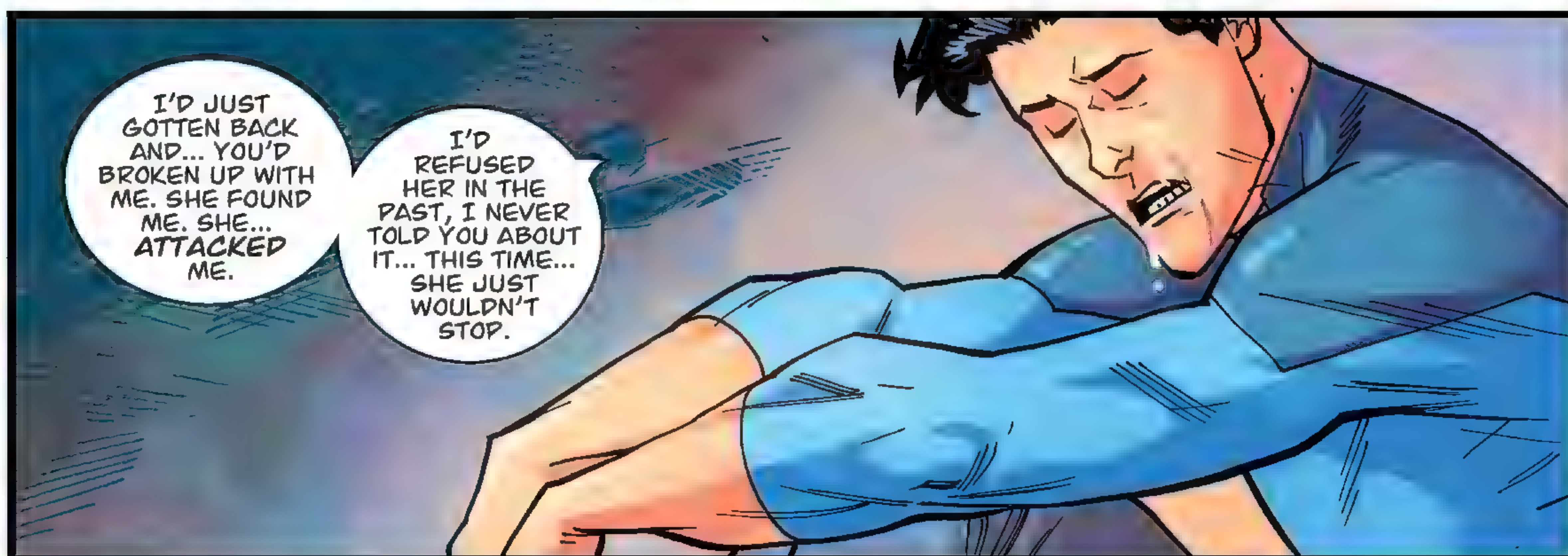


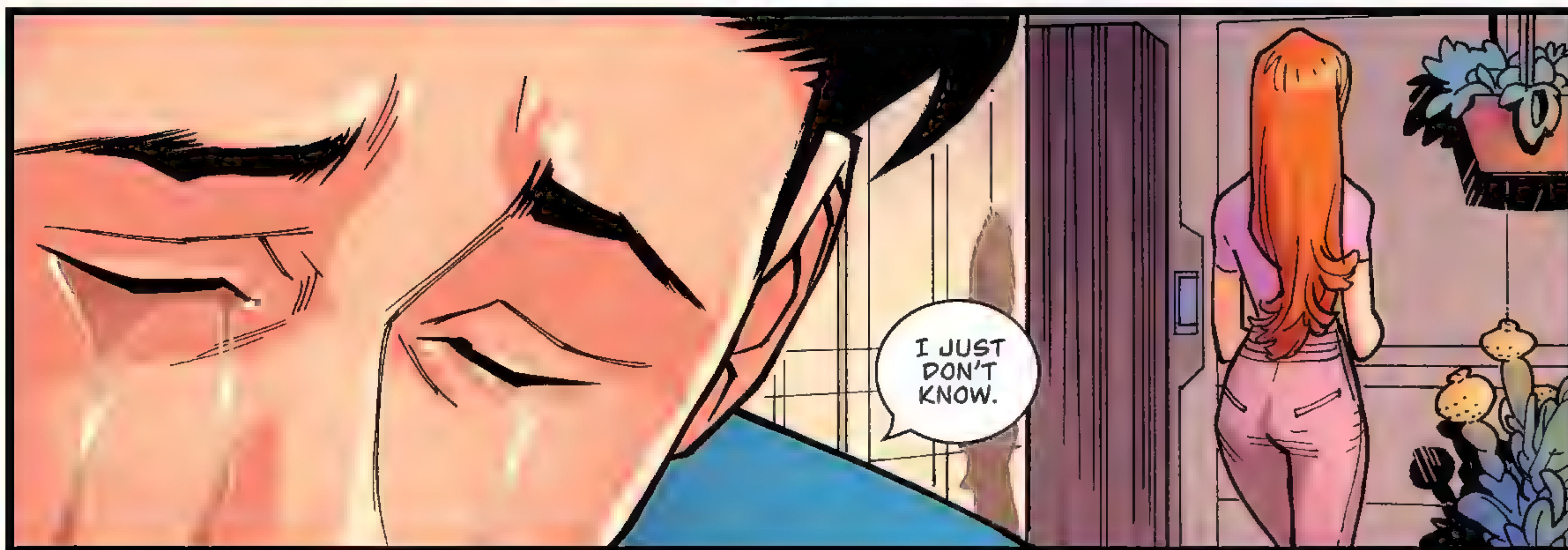
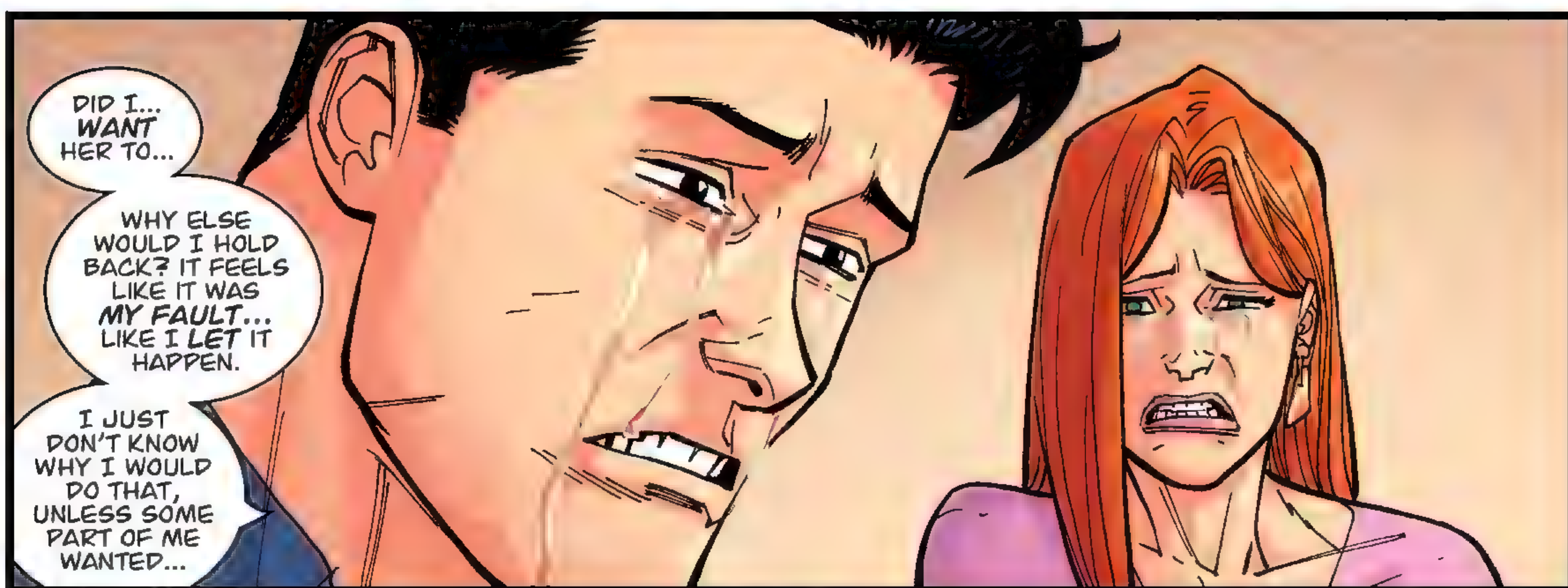
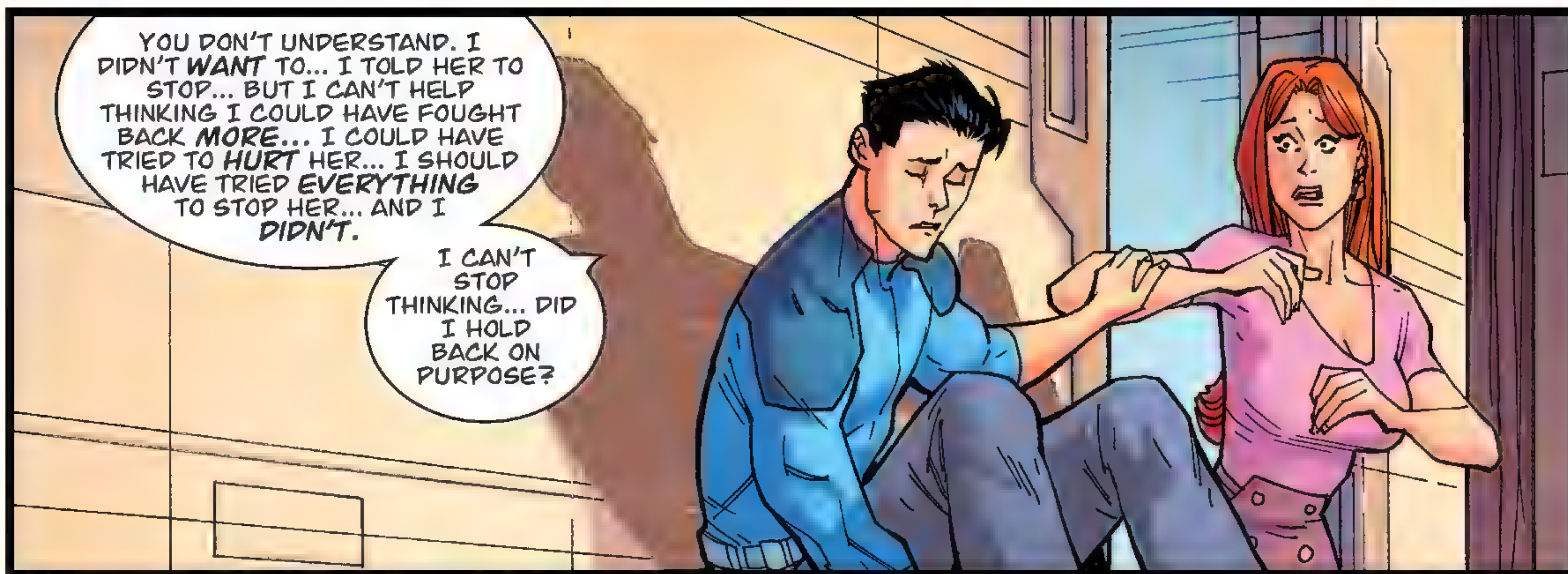










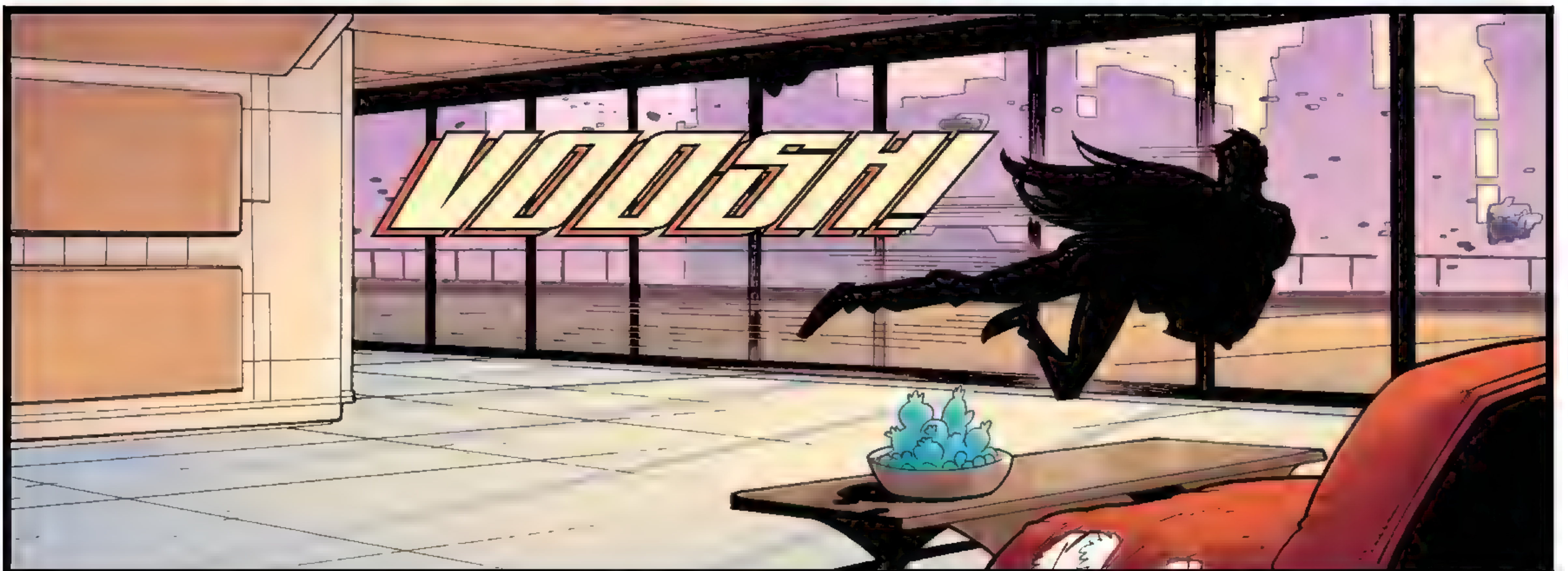
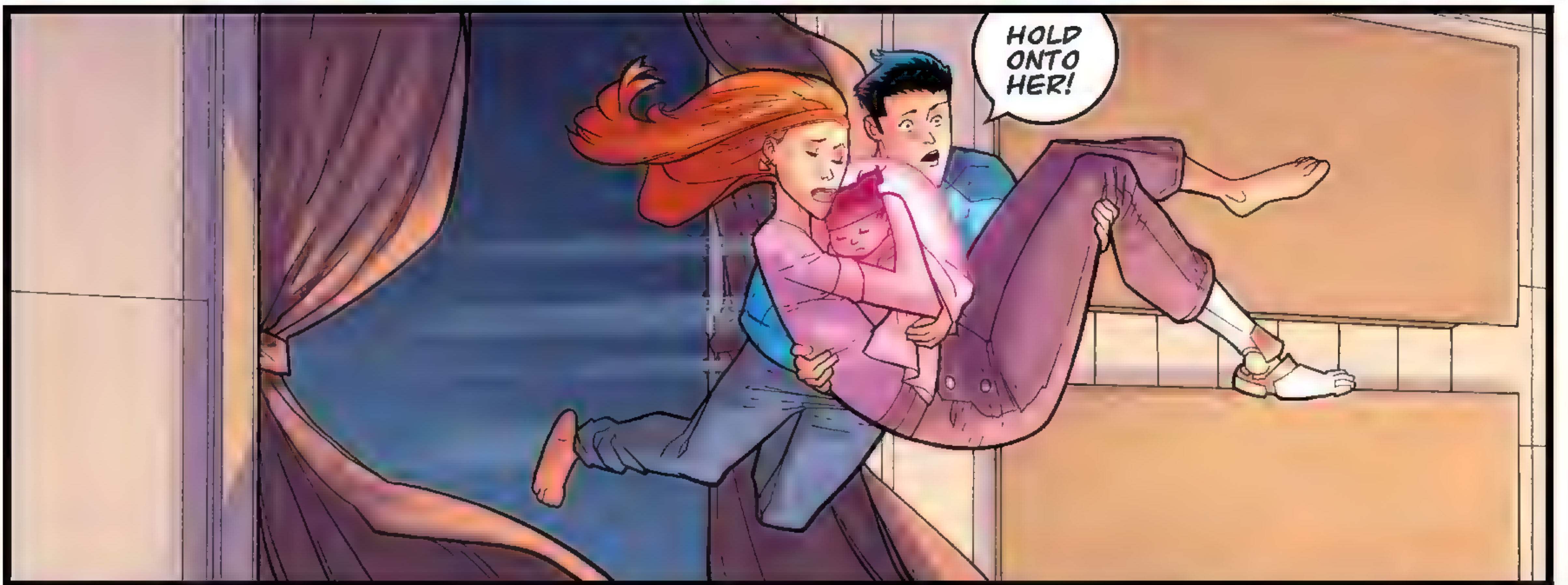
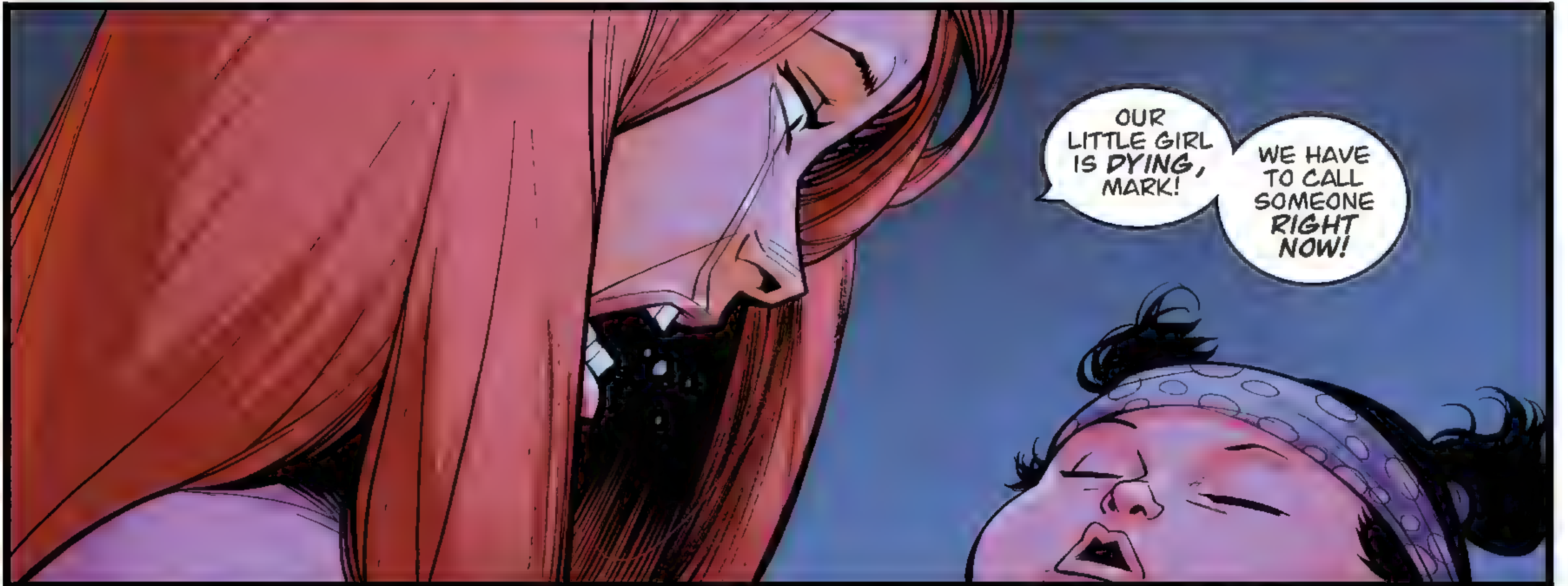






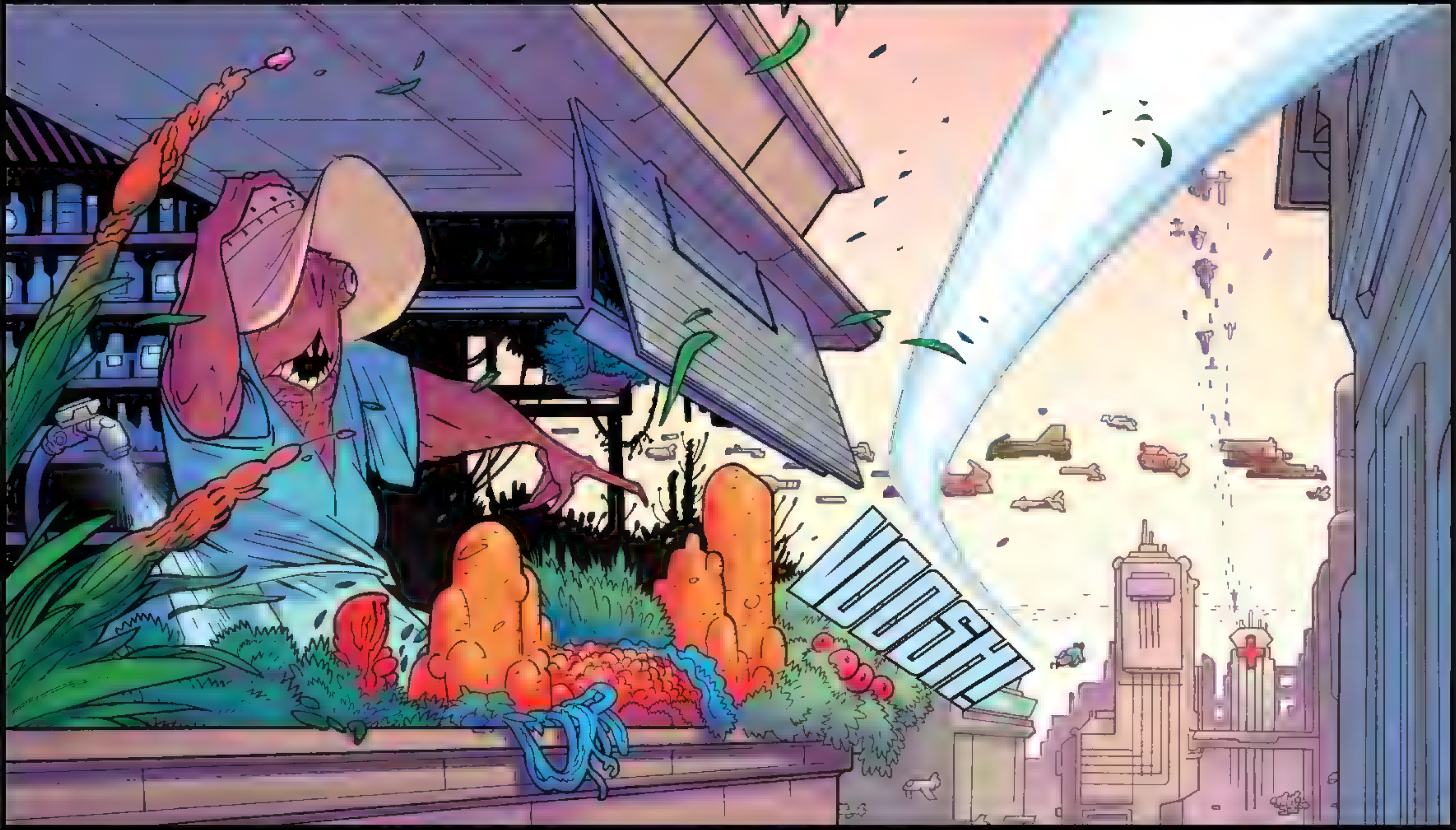
CHAPTER FIVE

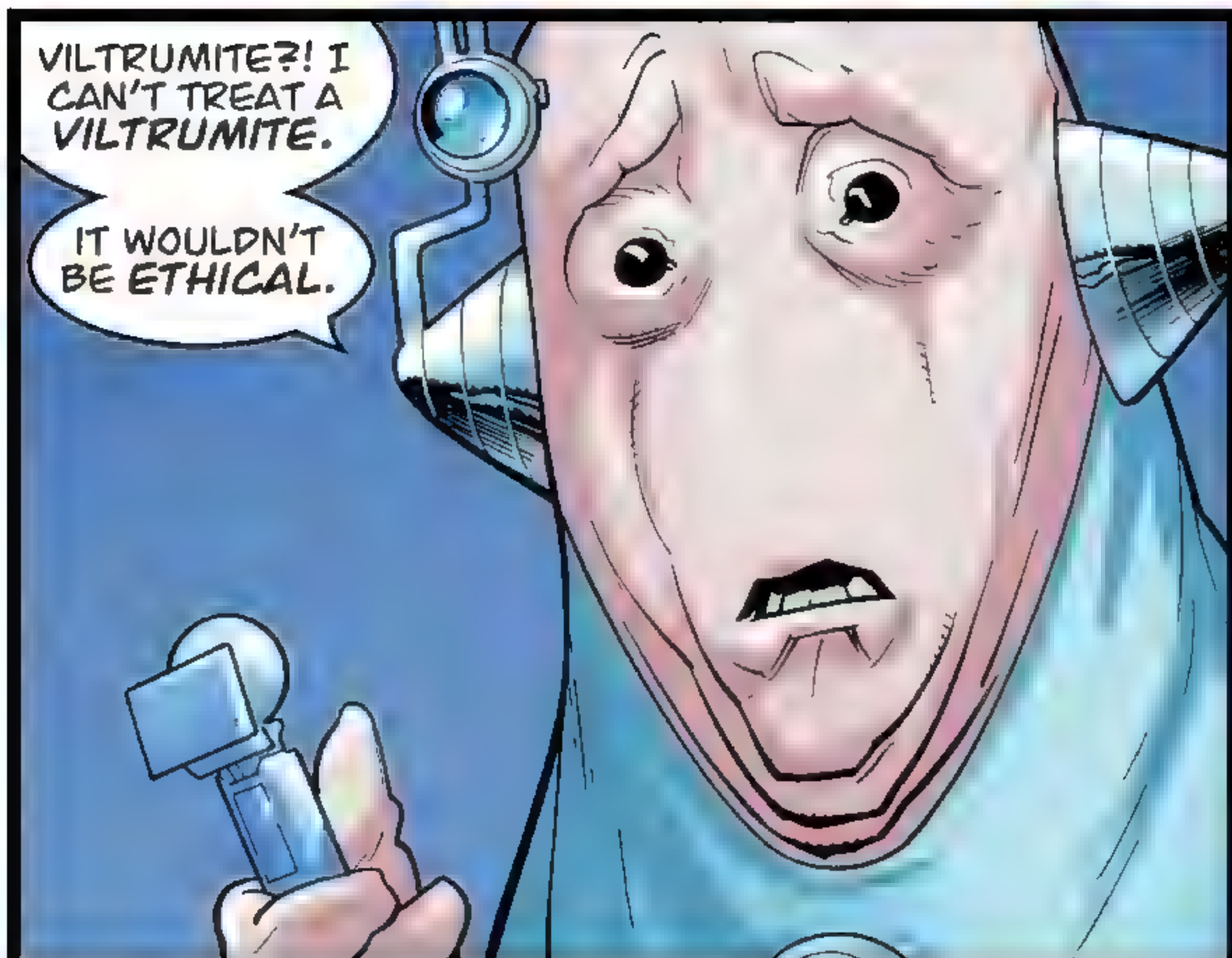
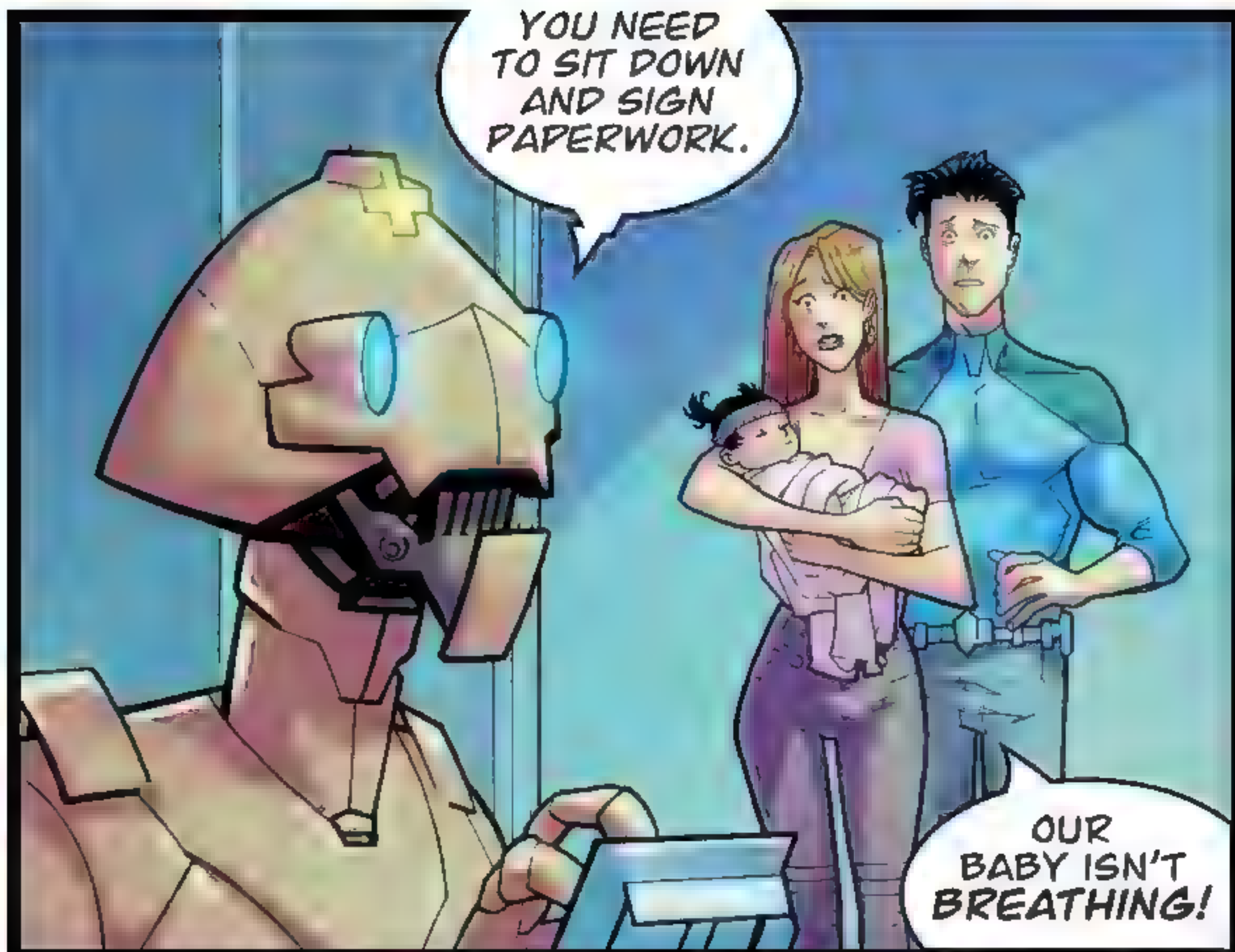


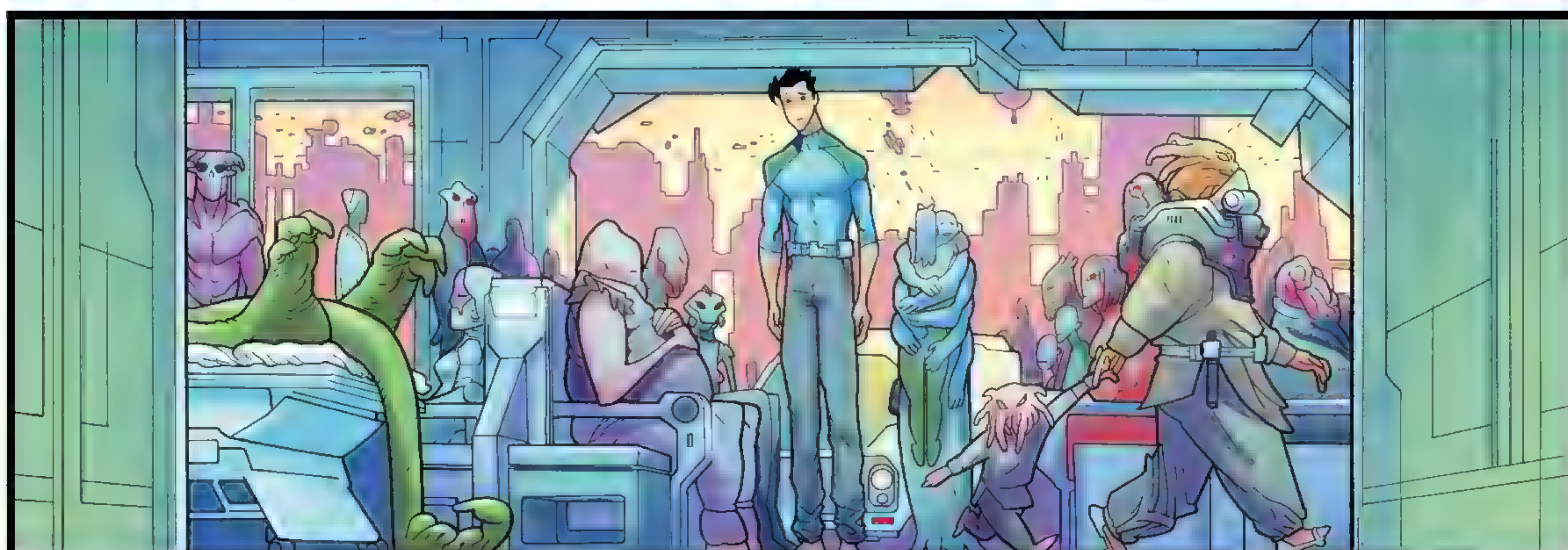




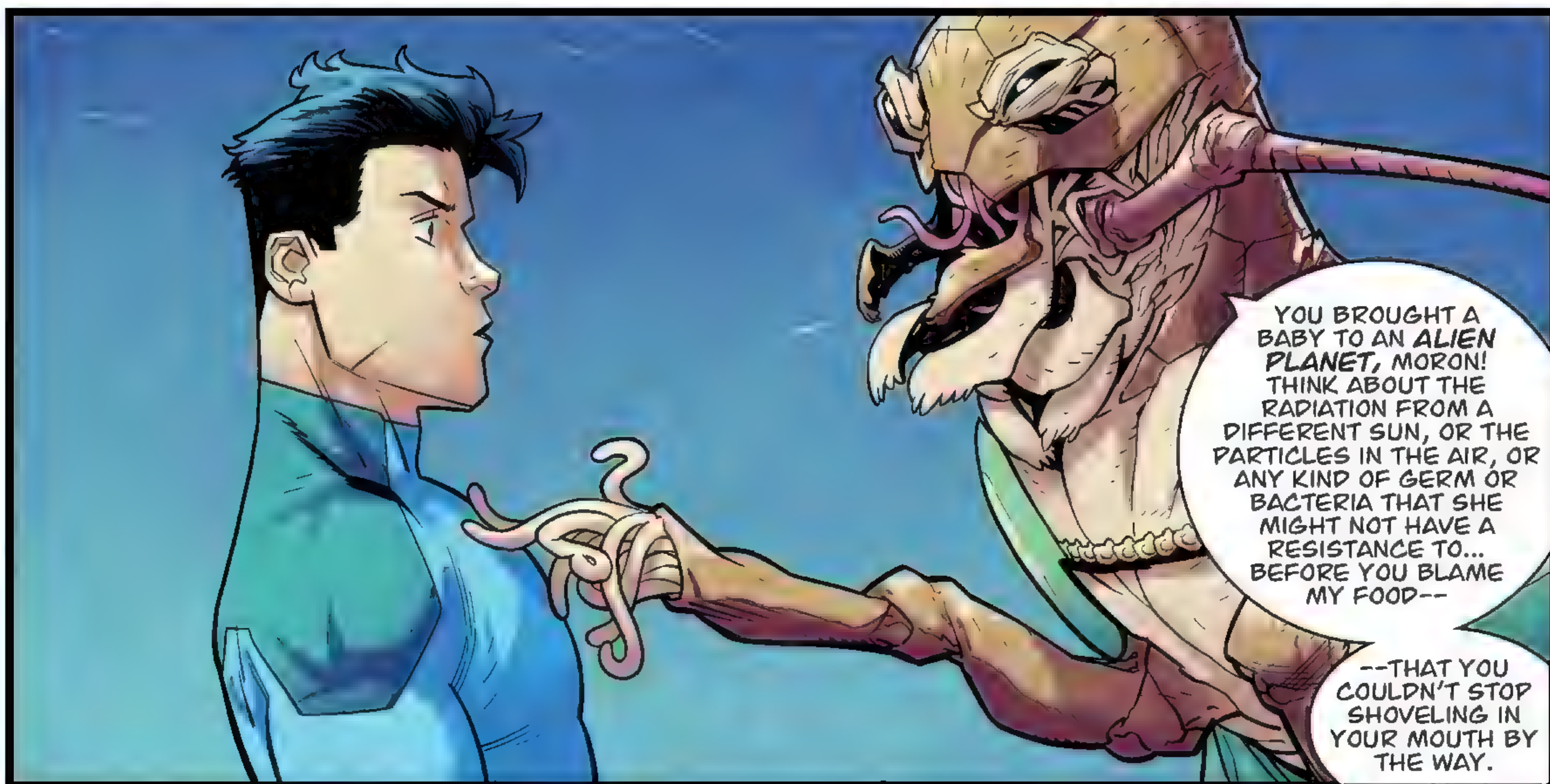
WE NEED
TO FIND A
HOSPITAL!

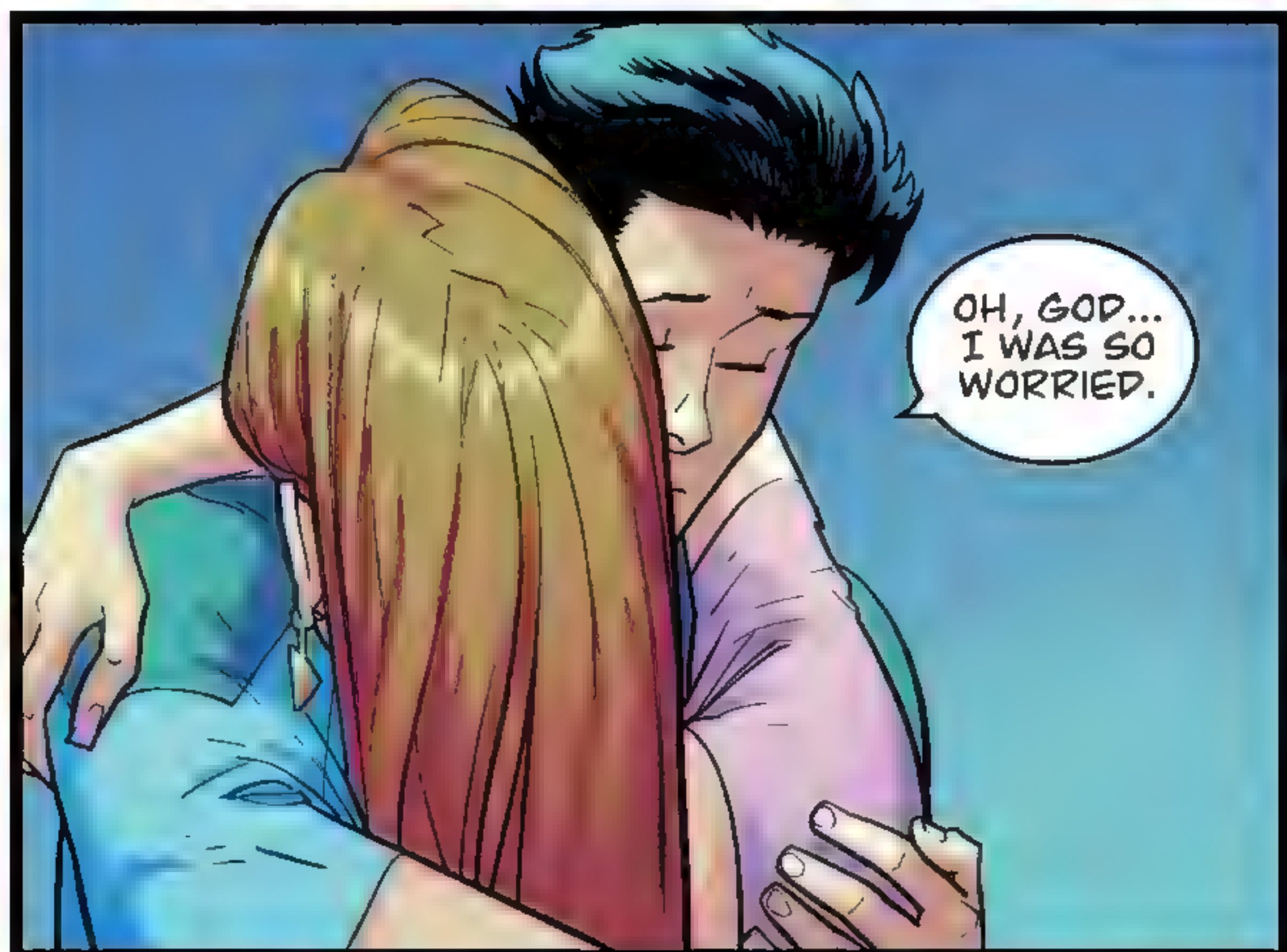
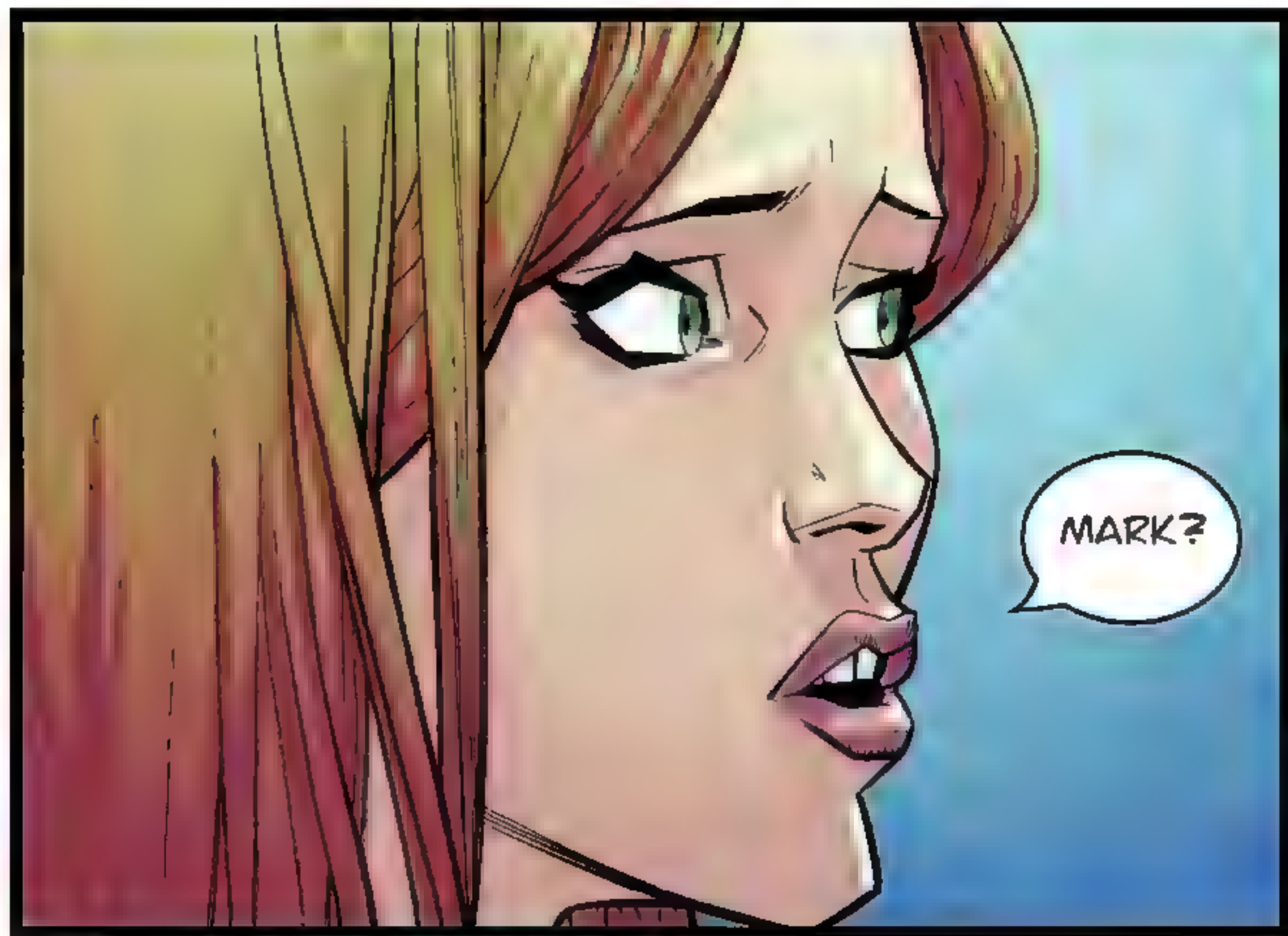
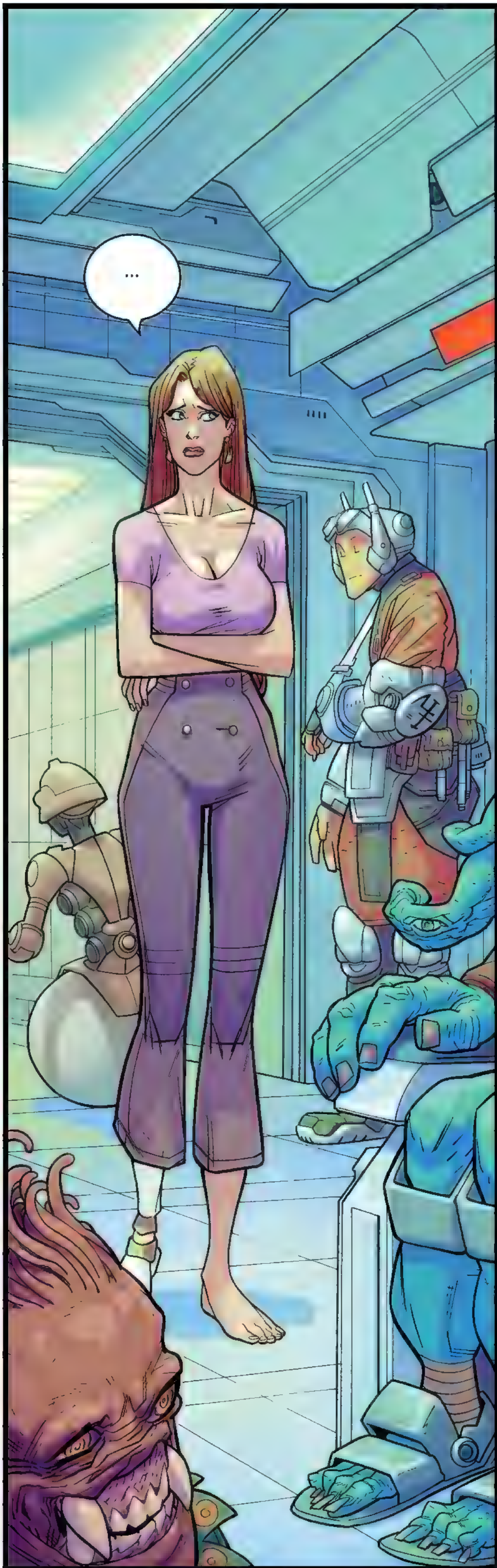


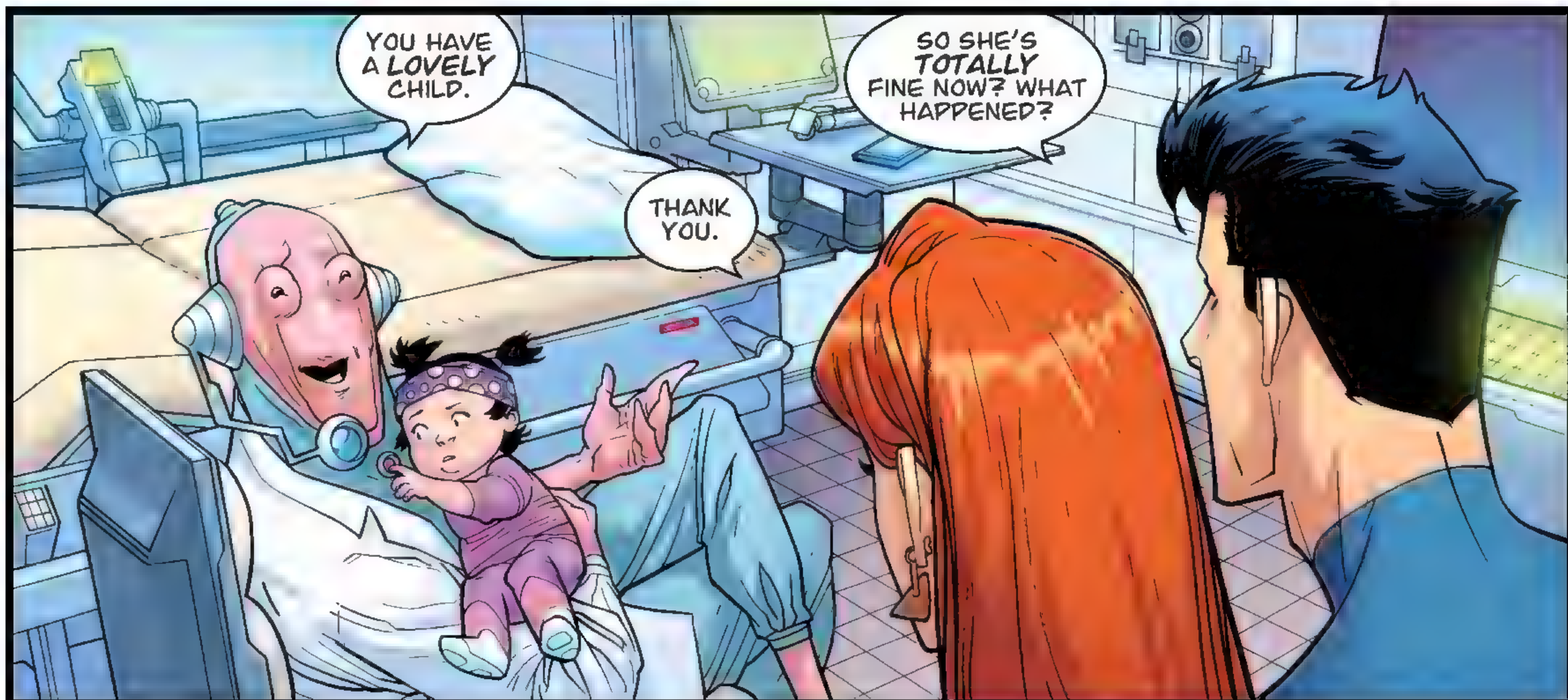












YOU HAVE
A LOVELY
CHILD.

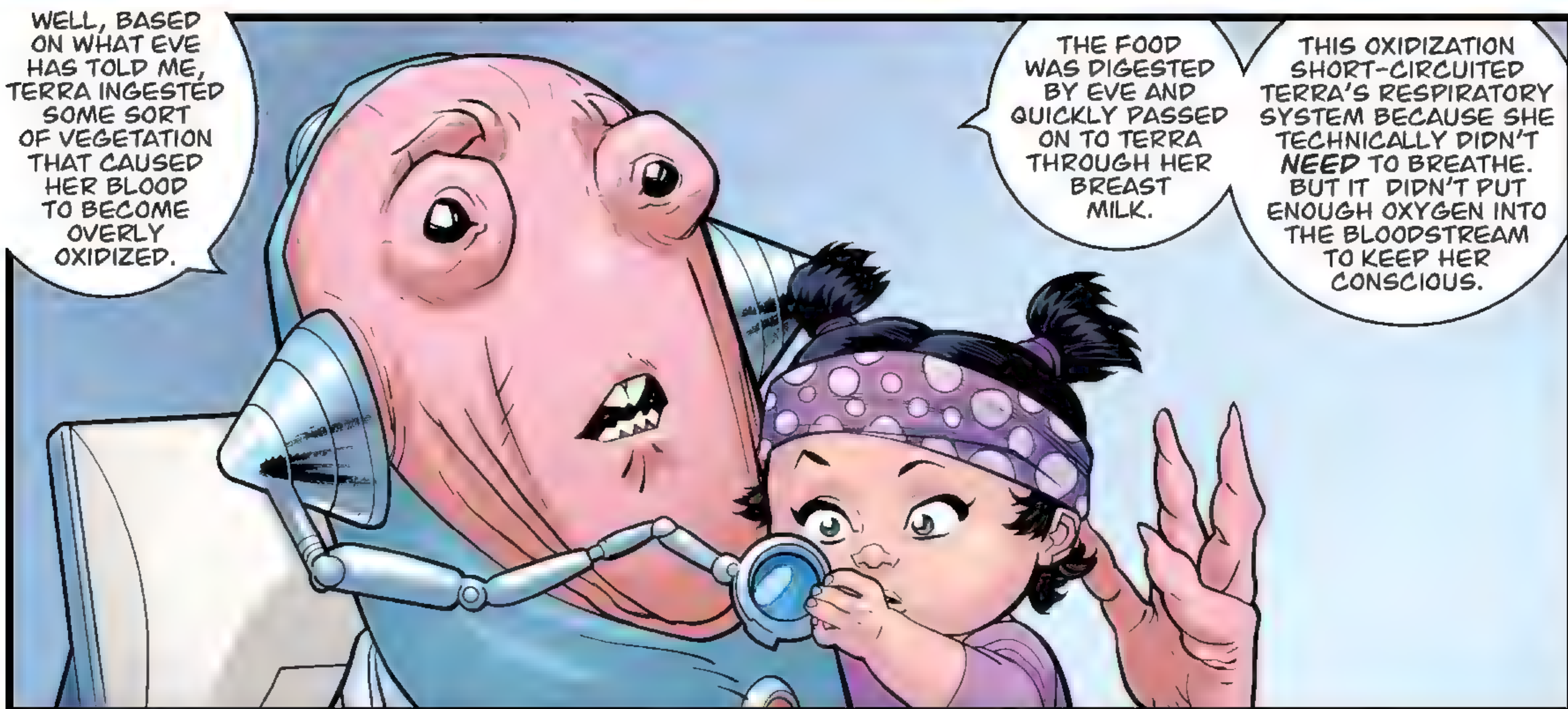
SO SHE'S
TOTALLY
FINE NOW? WHAT
HAPPENED?

THANK
YOU.

WELL, BASED
ON WHAT EVE
HAS TOLD ME,
TERRA INGESTED
SOME SORT
OF VEGETATION
THAT CAUSED
HER BLOOD
TO BECOME
OVERLY OXIDIZED.

THE FOOD
WAS DIGESTED
BY EVE AND
QUICKLY PASSED
ON TO TERRA
THROUGH HER
BREAST
MILK.

THIS OXIDIZATION
SHORT-CIRCUITED
TERRA'S RESPIRATORY
SYSTEM BECAUSE SHE
TECHNICALLY DIDN'T
NEED TO BREATHE.
BUT IT DIDN'T PUT
ENOUGH OXYGEN INTO
THE BLOODSTREAM
TO KEEP HER
CONSCIOUS.



MY GOD...
ARE THERE
ANY LONG-
TERM EFFECTS
TO WORRY
ABOUT?

NO, NOTHING
LIKE THAT. AS
SHE GETS OLDER
AND BEGINS
EATING SOLID
FOOD, THE PLANT
WON'T EVEN
AFFECT HER.

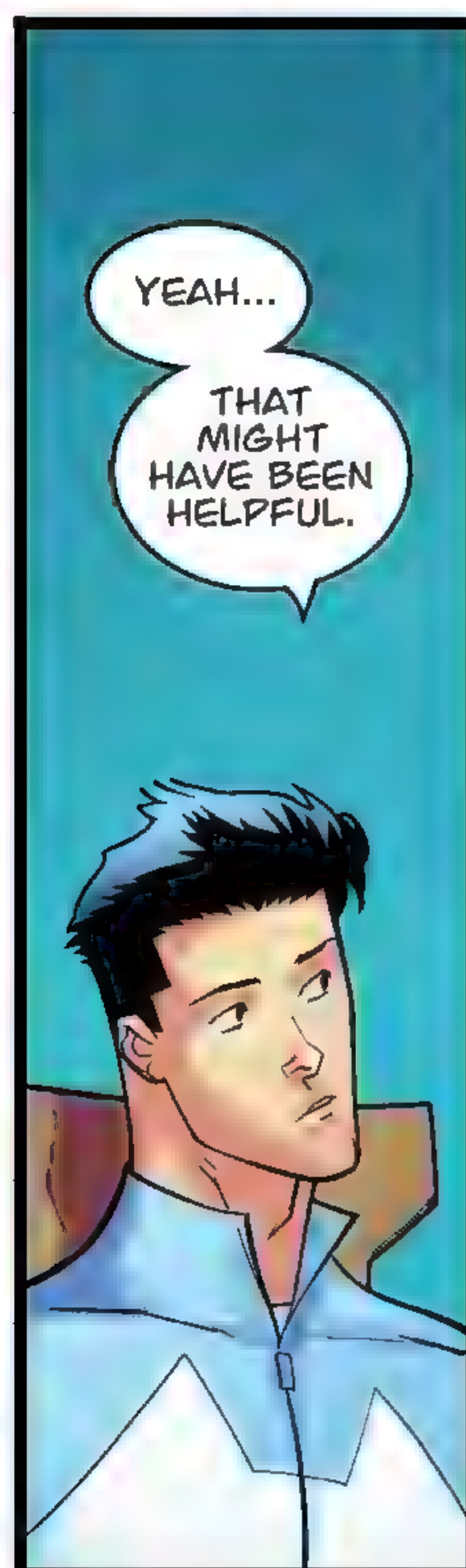
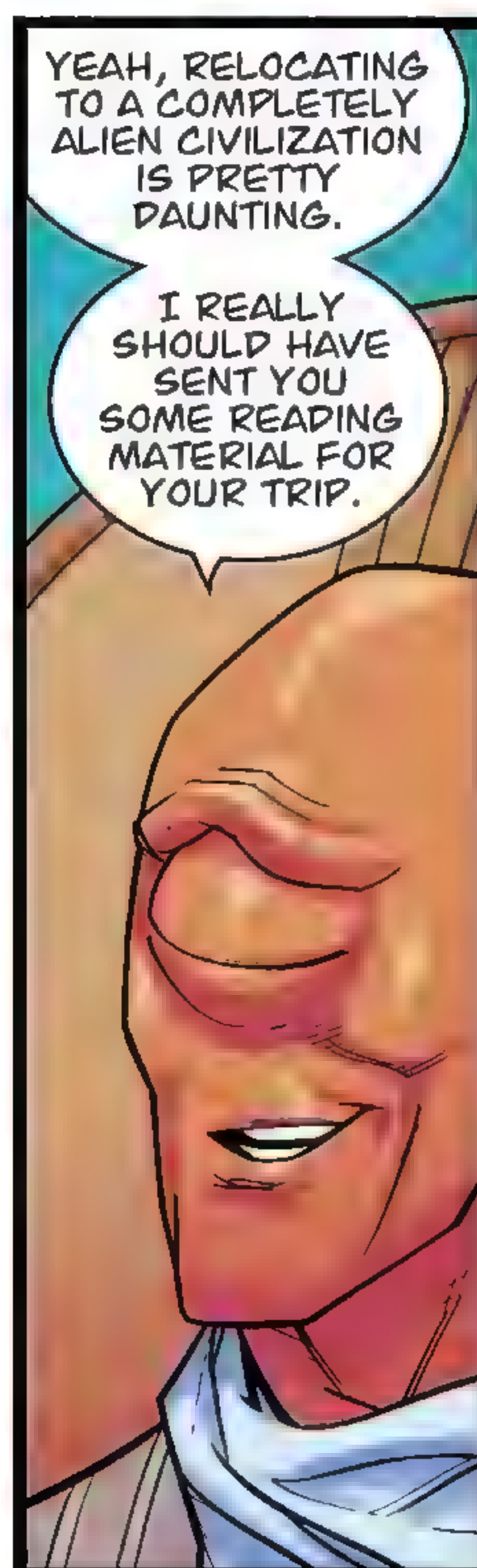
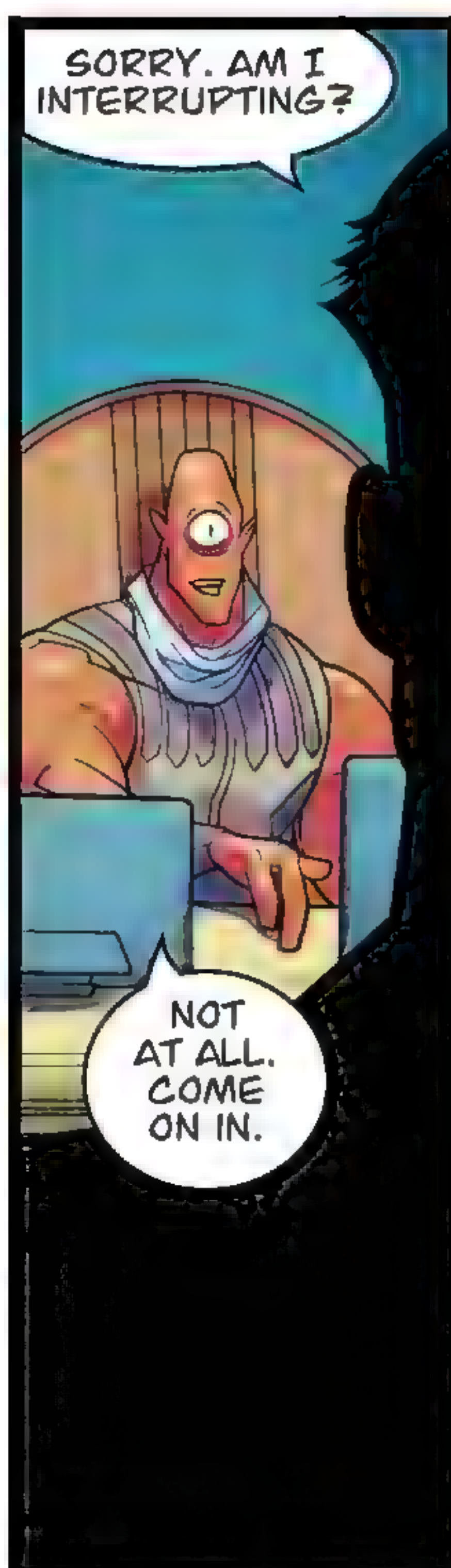
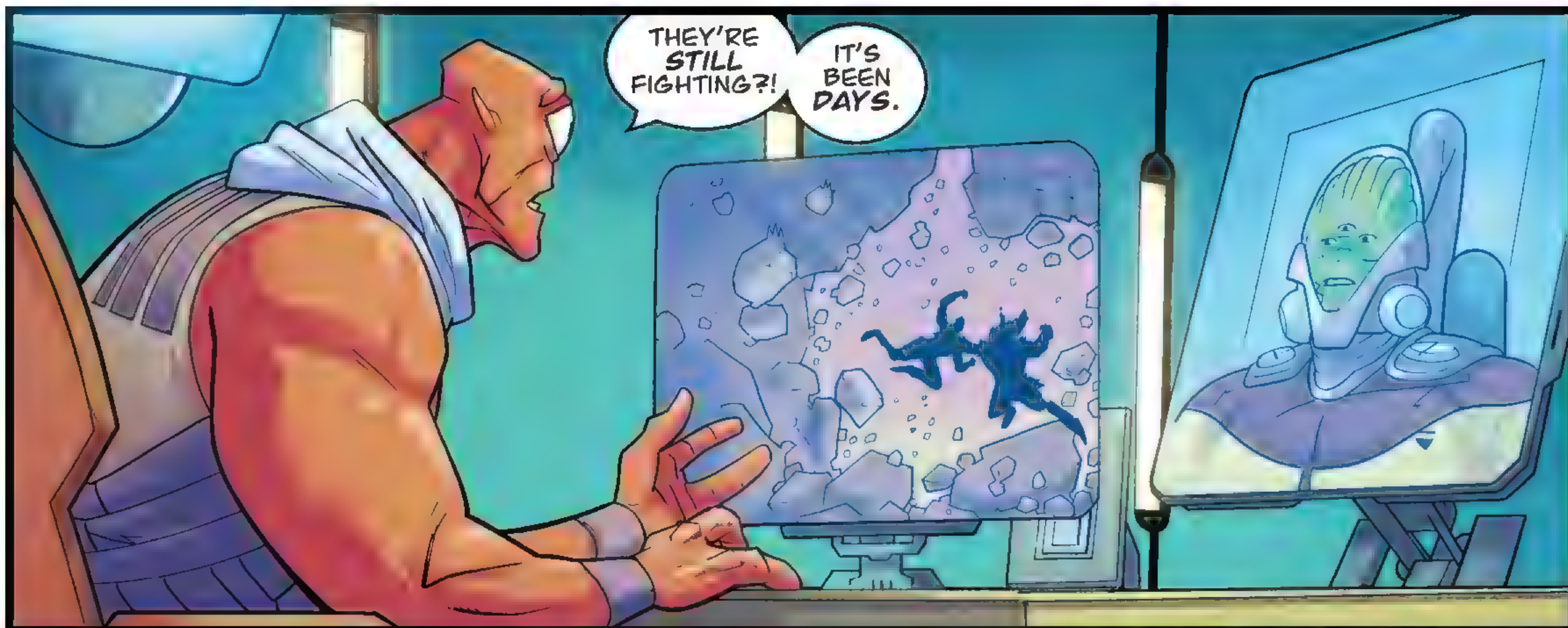
HOW CAN
WE AVOID
THIS KIND OF
THING IN THE
FUTURE?

YOU NEED
TO SCHEDULE
A DIETARY
CONSULTATION
WITH ONE OF OUR
NUTRITION EXPERTS.
SHE CAN LET YOU
KNOW WHAT YOU
CAN AND CAN'T
EAT WHILE ON
THIS PLANET.

MAN... THIS IS WAY
MORE COMPLICATED
THAN I COULD HAVE
IMAGINED...









I CALLED YOU IN FOR A REASON, SO LET'S DISCUSS THIS, BECAUSE I HAVE AN AWFUL LOT GOING ON HERE IN THE COALITION...

EXACTLY HOW RETIRED ARE YOU... OFFICIALLY?

COMPLETELY.



I'M NOT EXPECTING YOU TO PAY FOR US TO LIVE HERE. IF I NEED TO GET A JOB OR SOMETHING, I'M COOL WITH THAT.

I REFUSE TO BE RISKING MY LIFE ANYMORE. NOT WITH TERRA AROUND.



RISKING YOUR LIFE, SURE... BUT WHAT IF I HAD MISSIONS THAT WERE MOST LIKELY SAFE?

I COULD CONSIDER THAT.



WERE IT UP TO ME, I'D JUST LET YOU LIVE HERE INDEFINITELY FREE OF CHARGE. YOUR HELP IN THE VILTRUMITE WAR WAS INVALUABLE.

BUT EVENTUALLY SOME BEAN COUNTER WOULD CRY FOUL. BUREAUCRATS...



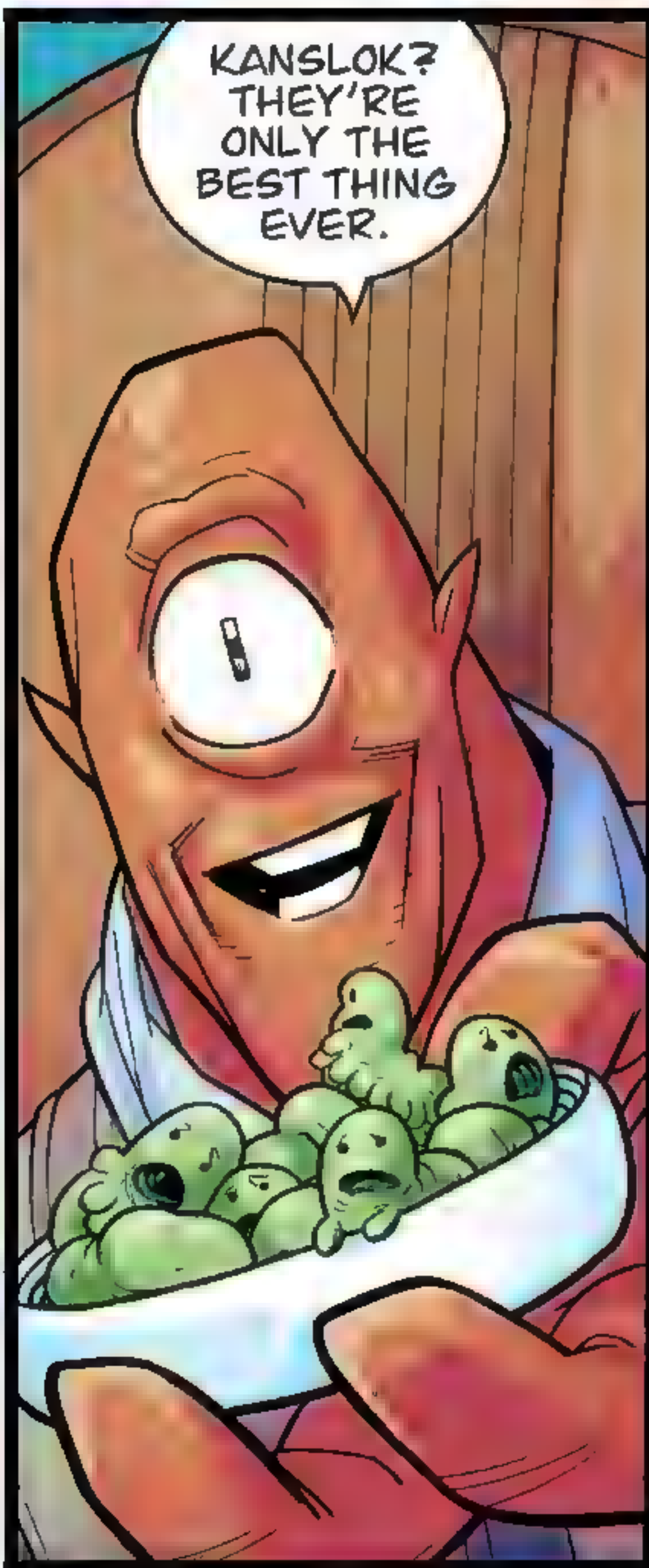
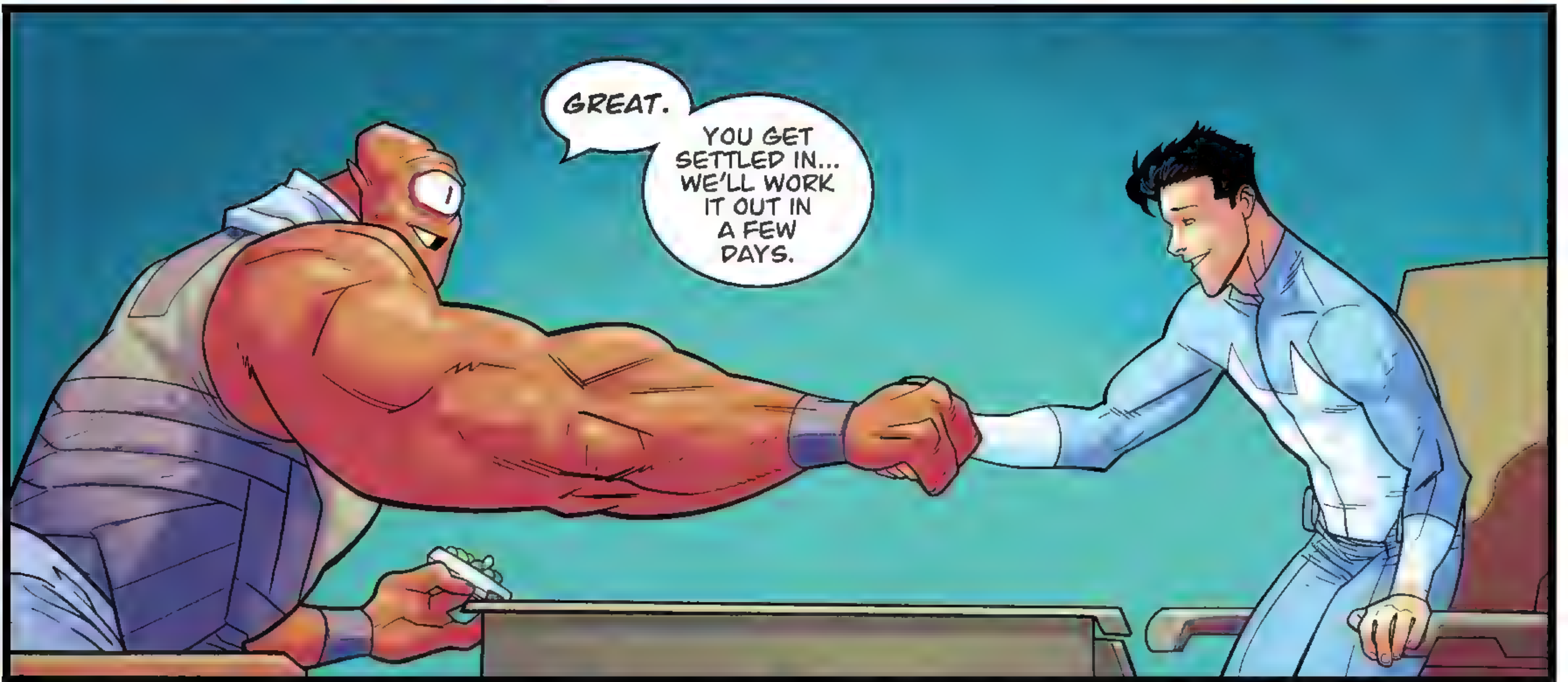
HOW PHYSICAL... THIS JOB YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

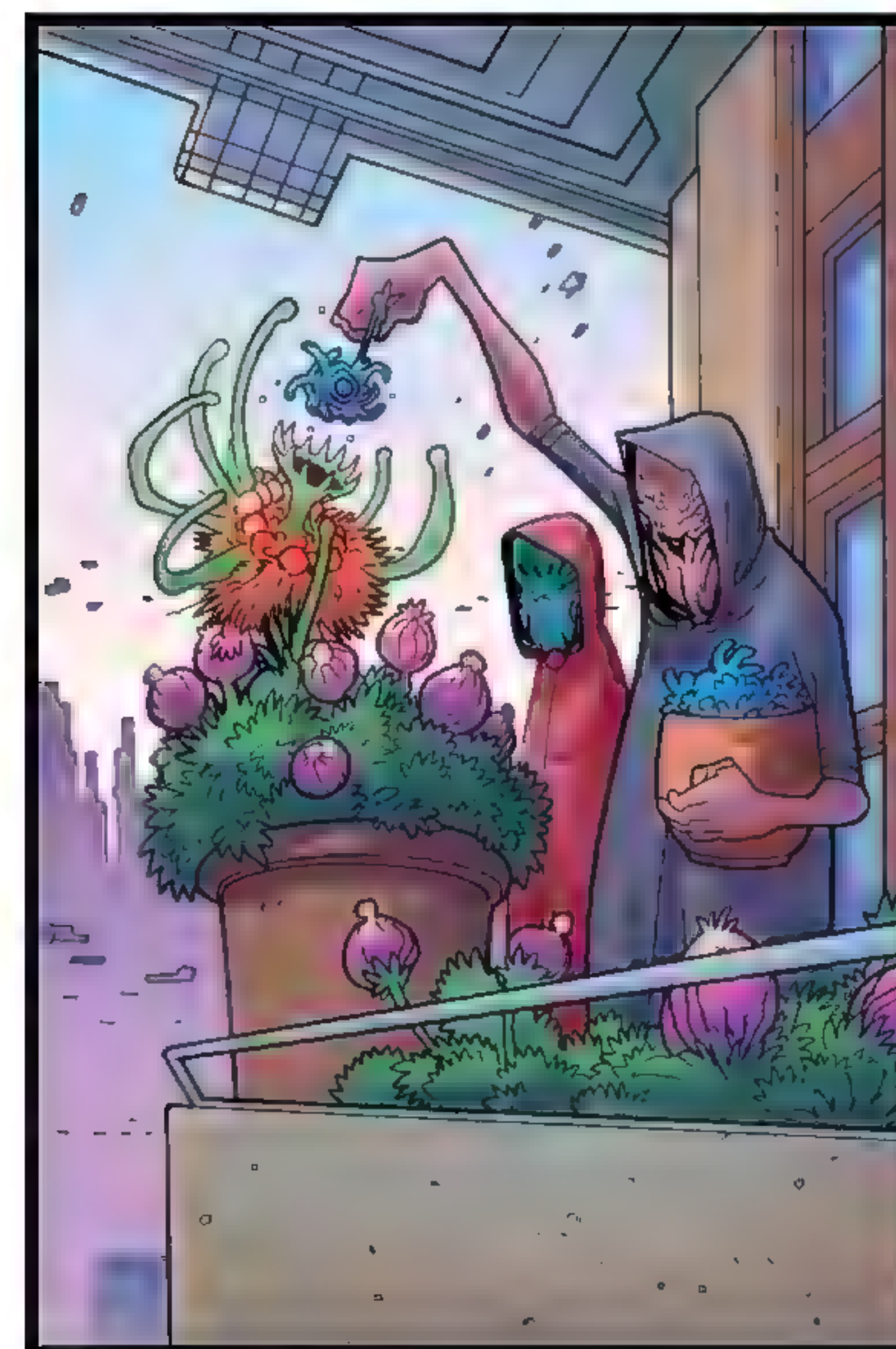
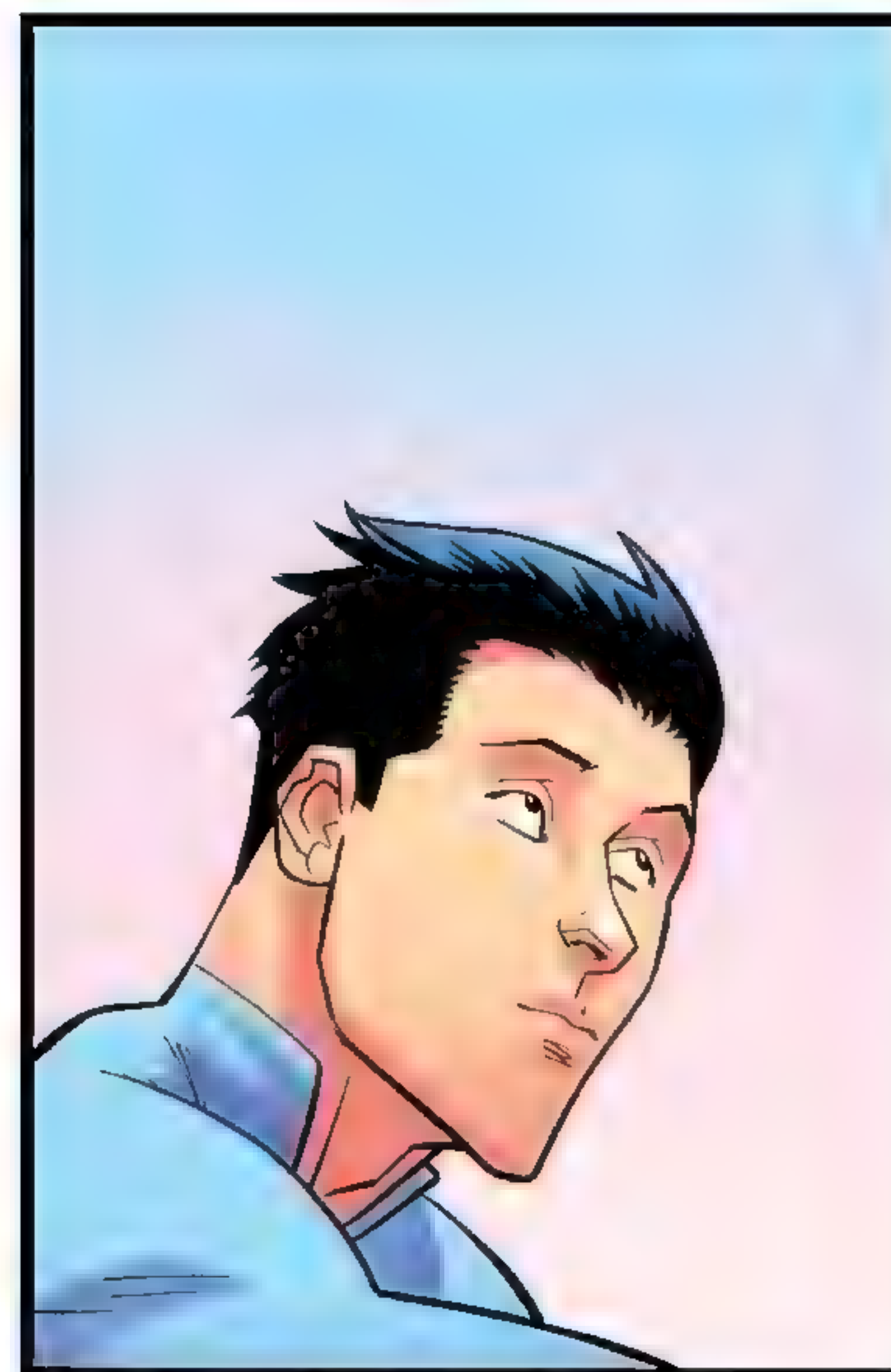
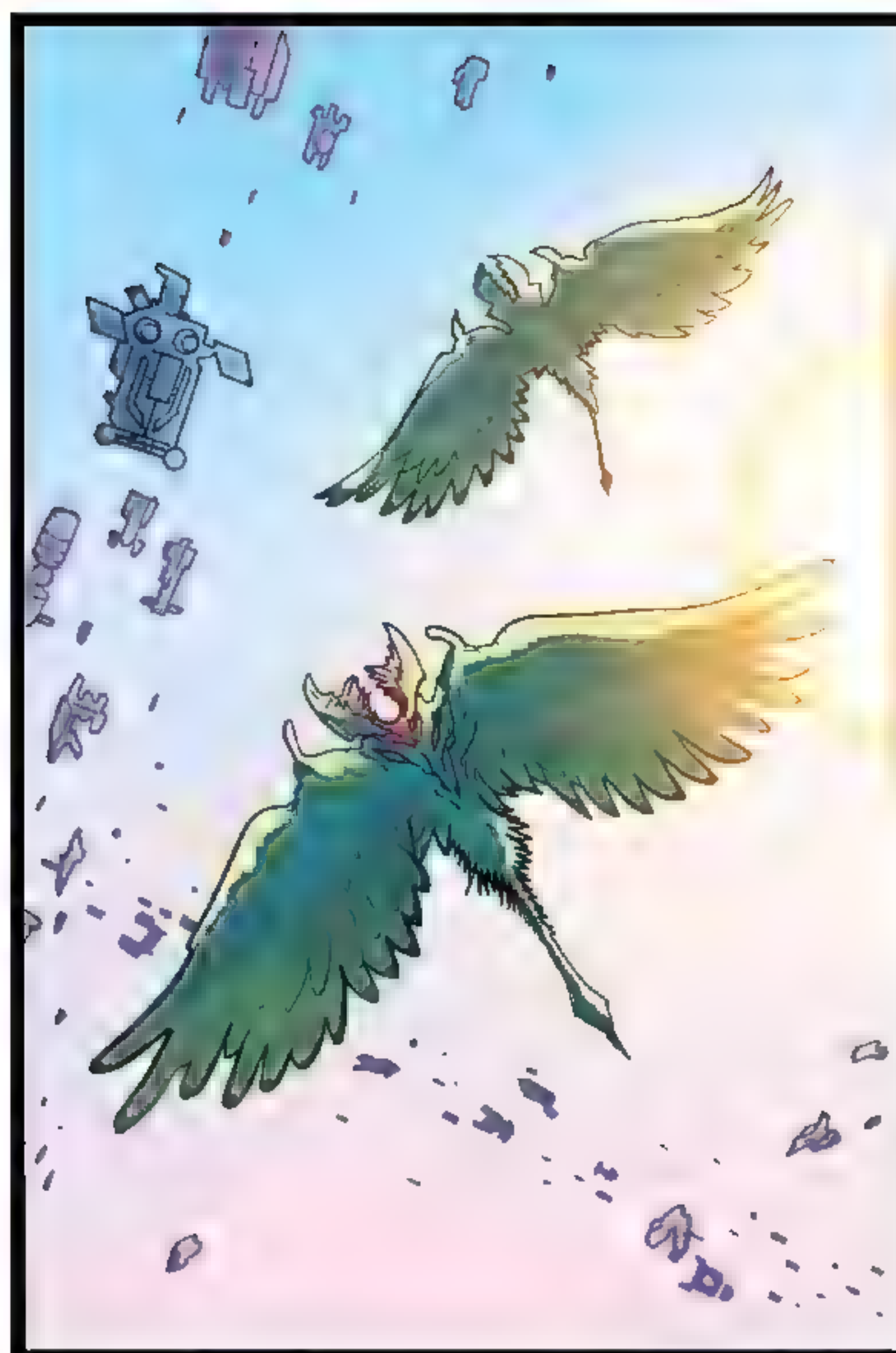
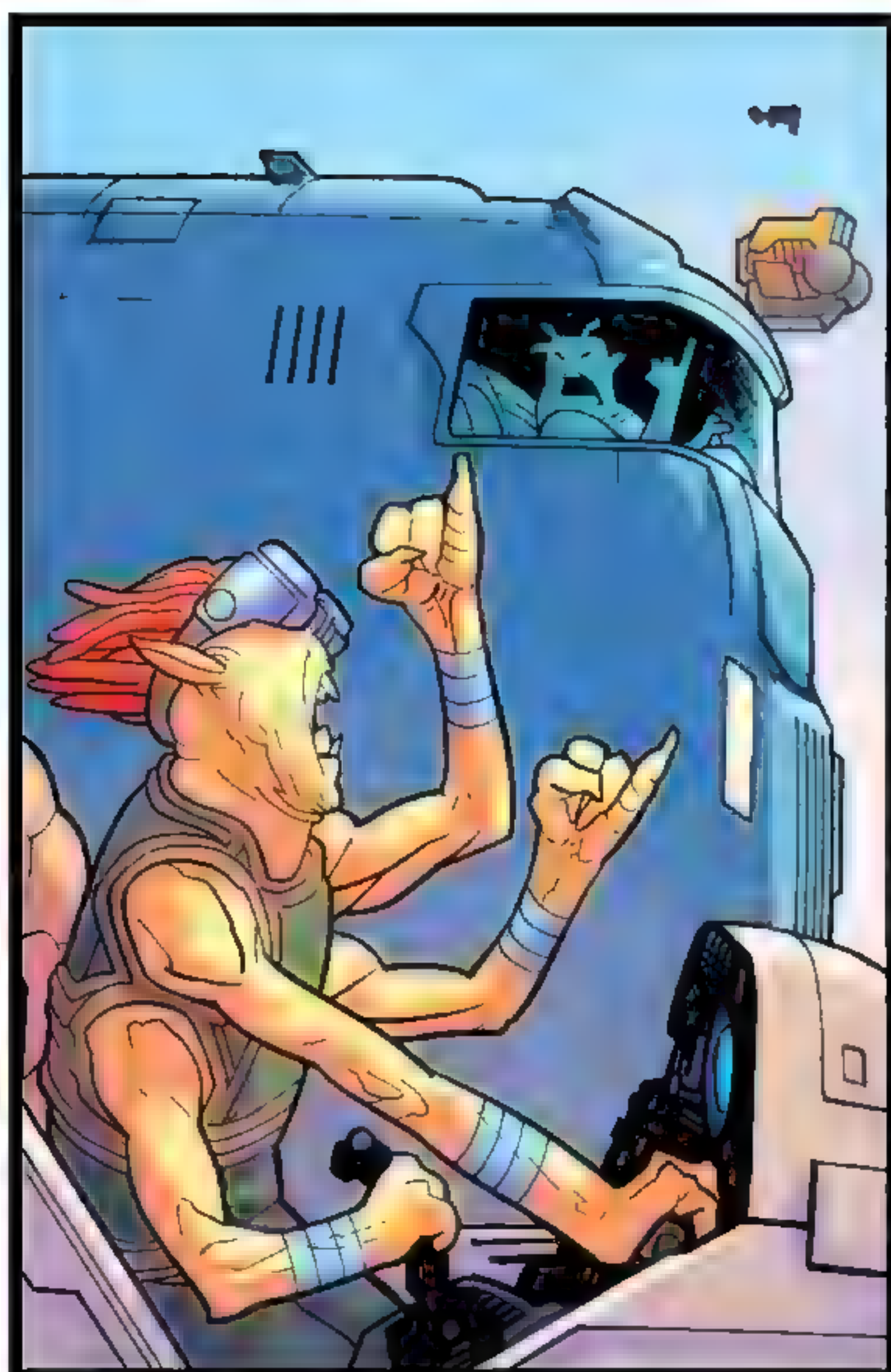
WOULD IT BE ME **FIGHTING** PEOPLE FOR YOU? KEEPING THE PEACE IN SOME WAY? I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT I'M AFTER.

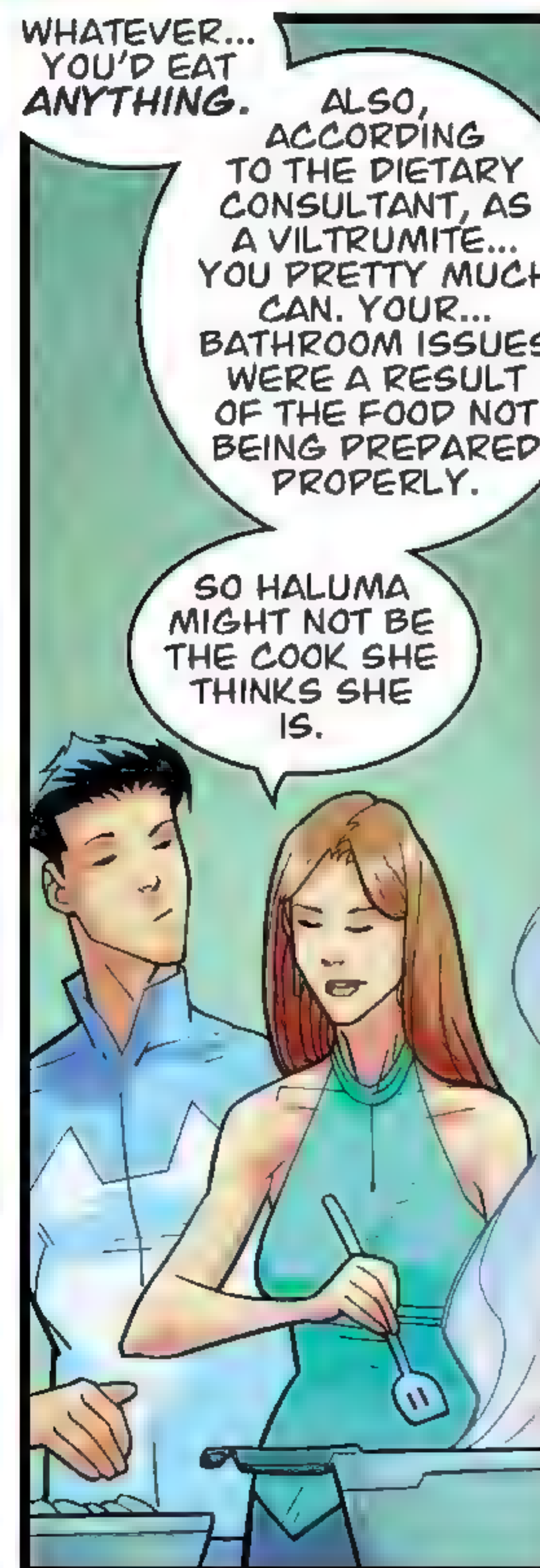
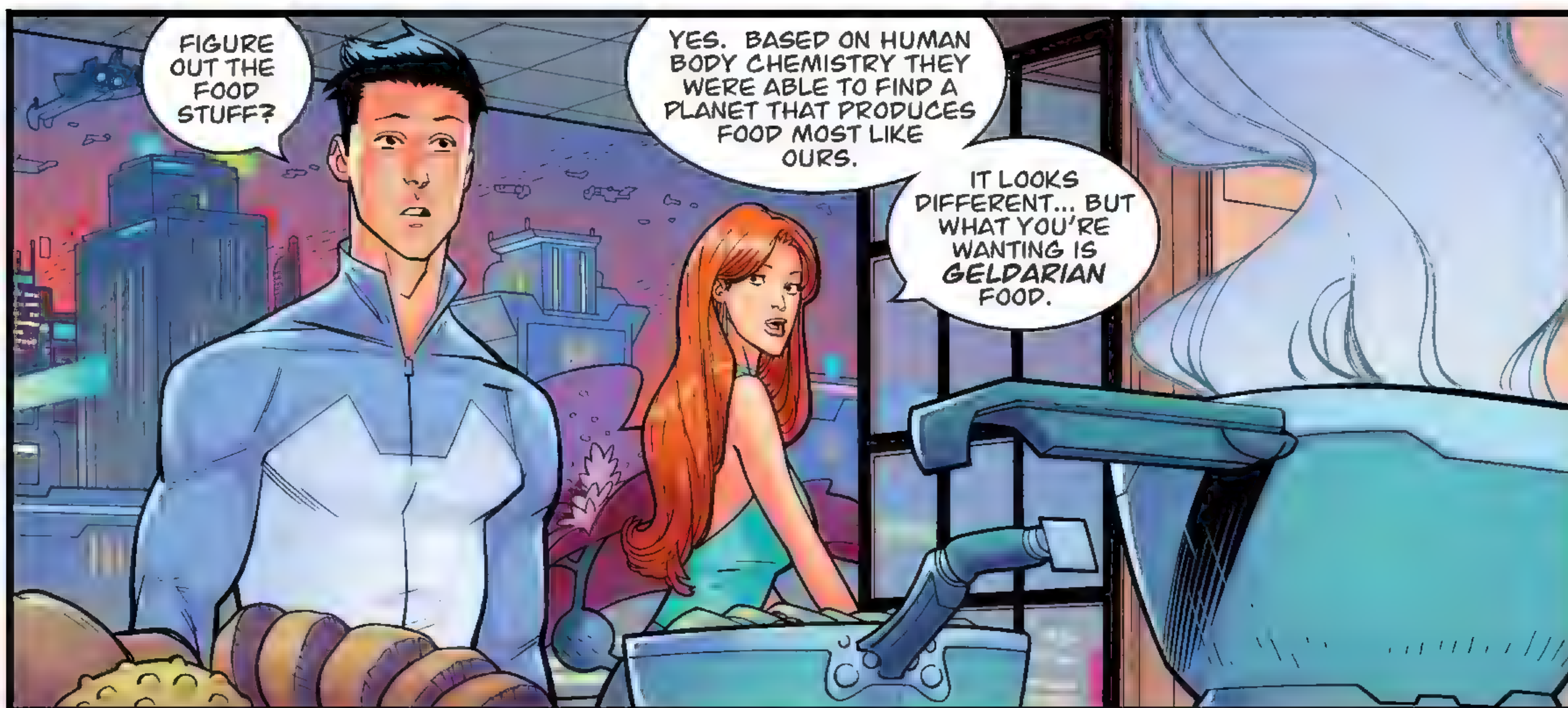


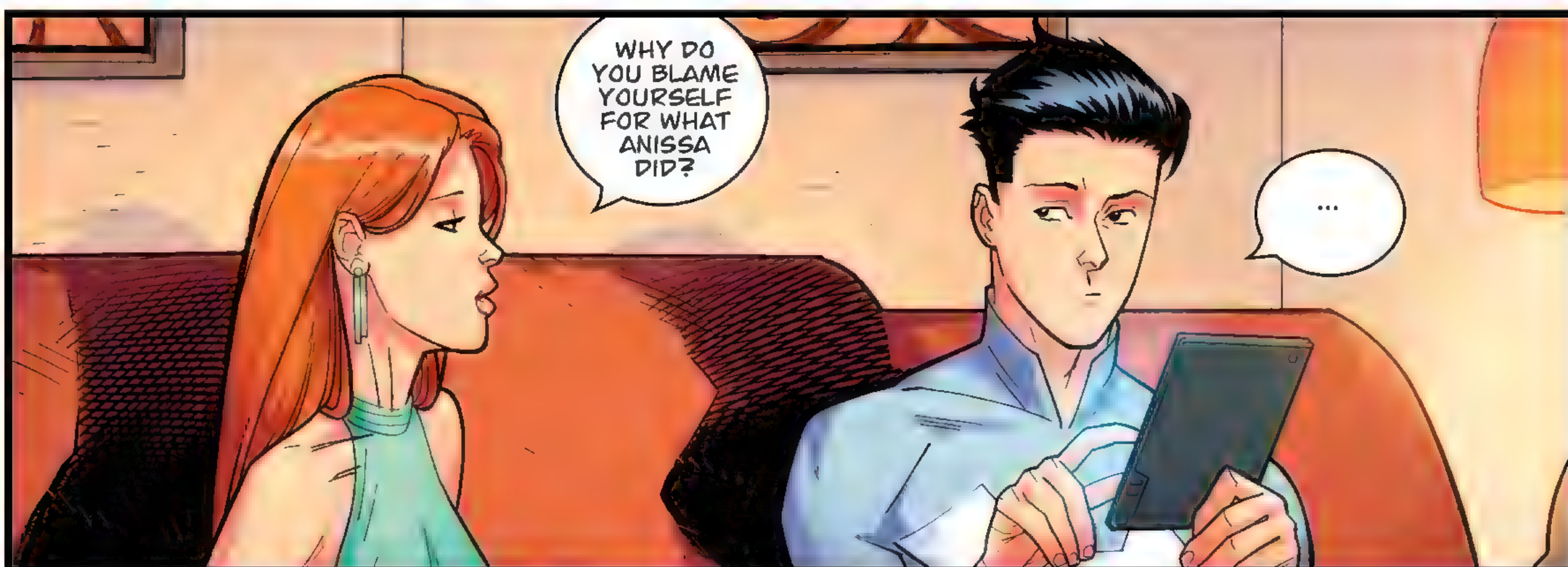
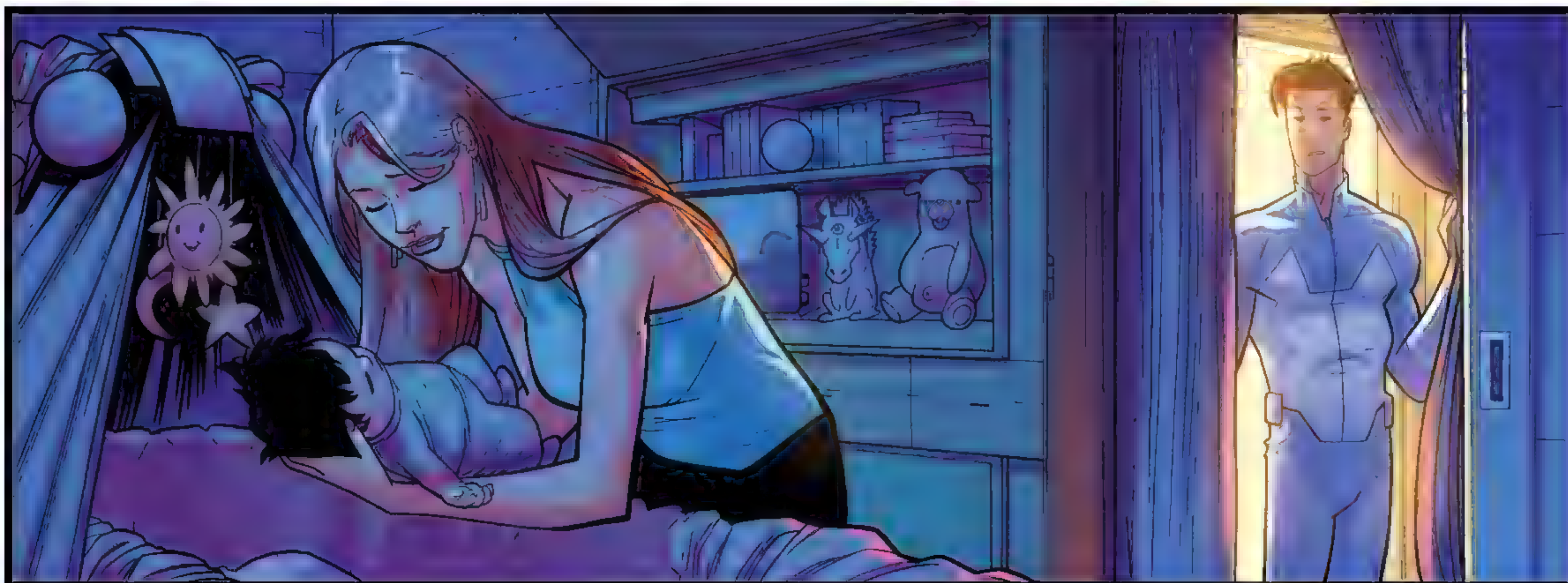
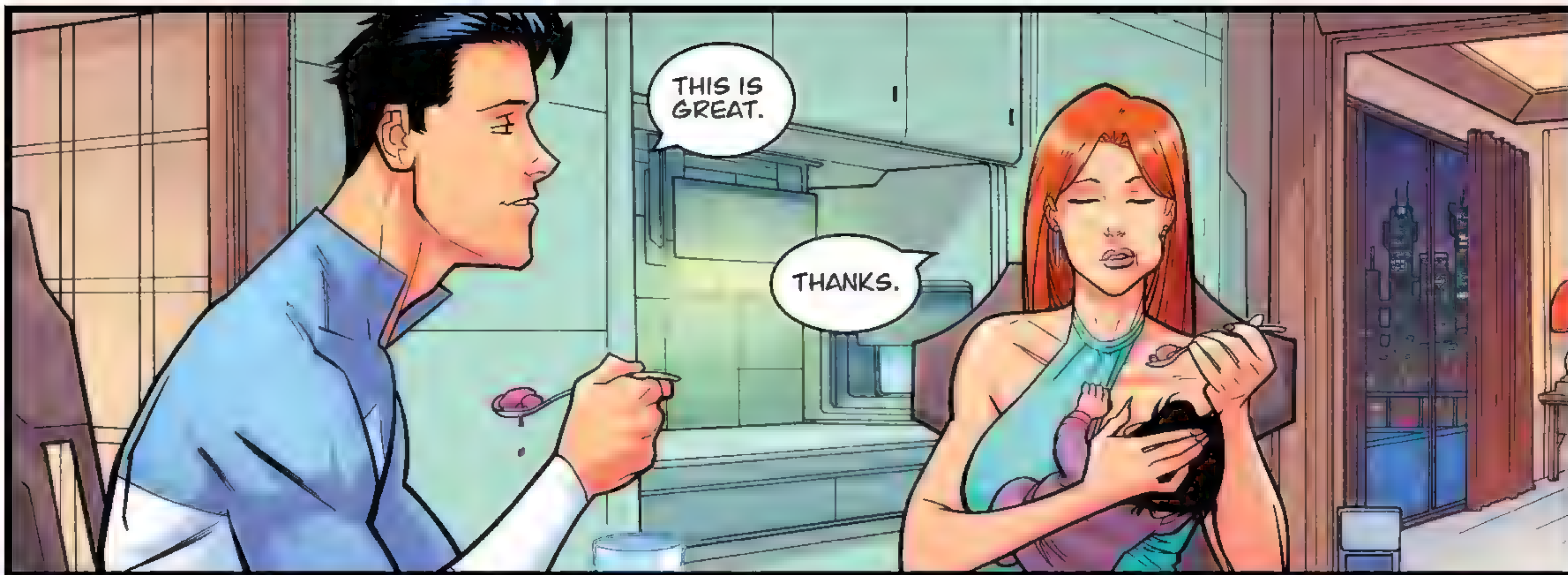
UNDERSTOOD. NO, I'M THINKING... SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF AN **INVESTIGATOR**. YOU'RE SUPER STRONG, AND INVULNERABLE... BUT YOU'RE ALSO VERY FAST... AND REALLY SMART.

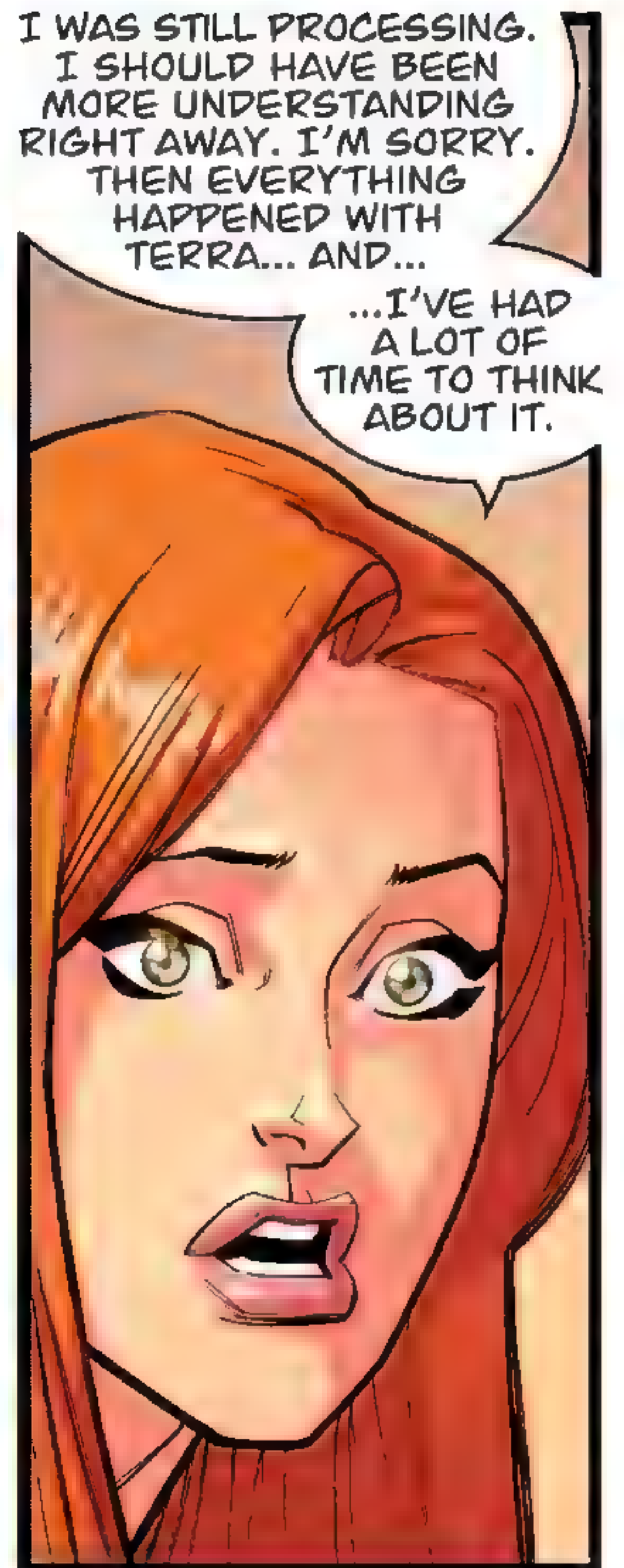
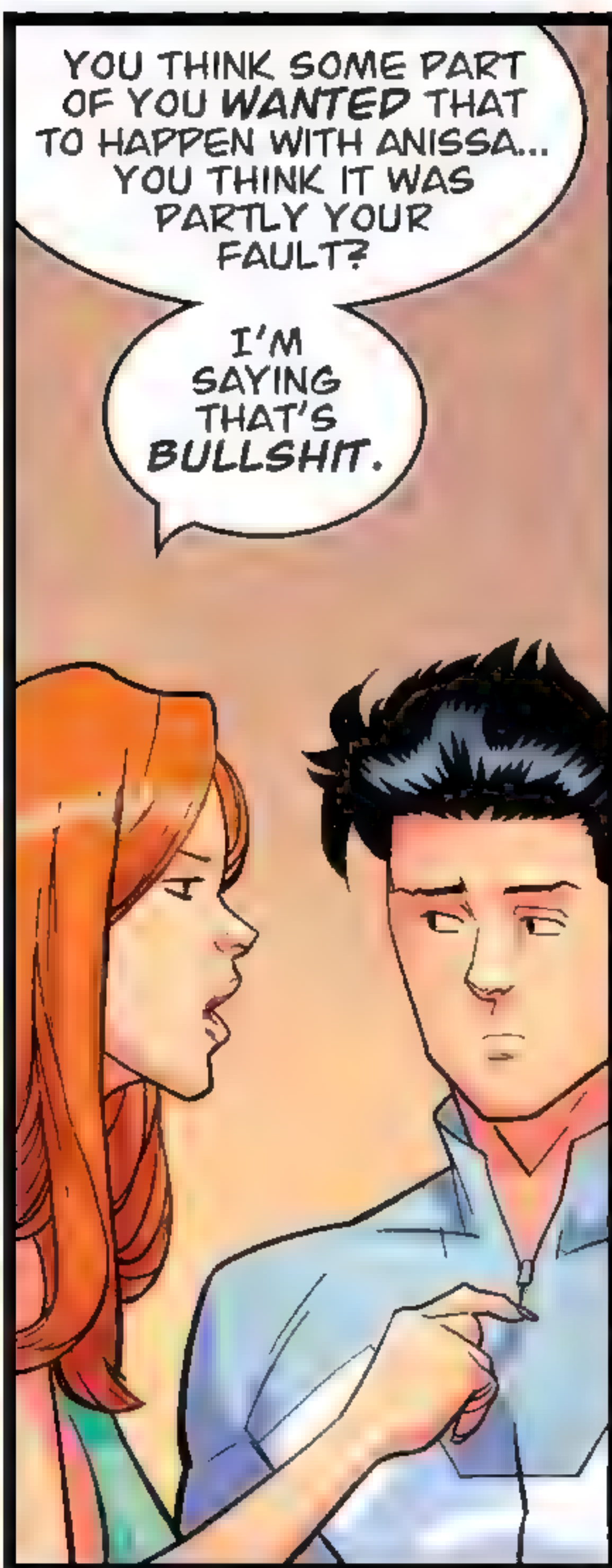
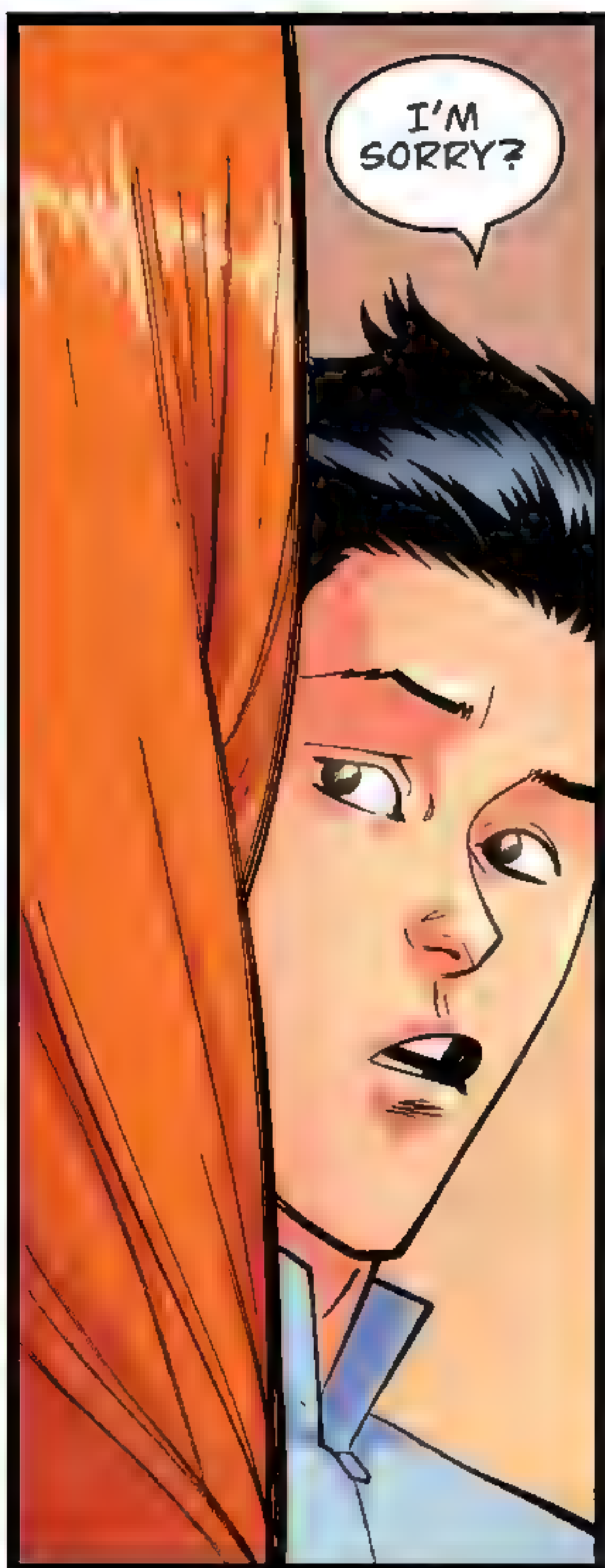
YOU CAN GO PLACES THAT WOULD BE HARD TO GET TO... YOU CAN... REPORT ON THINGS... BRING BACK INFORMATION.

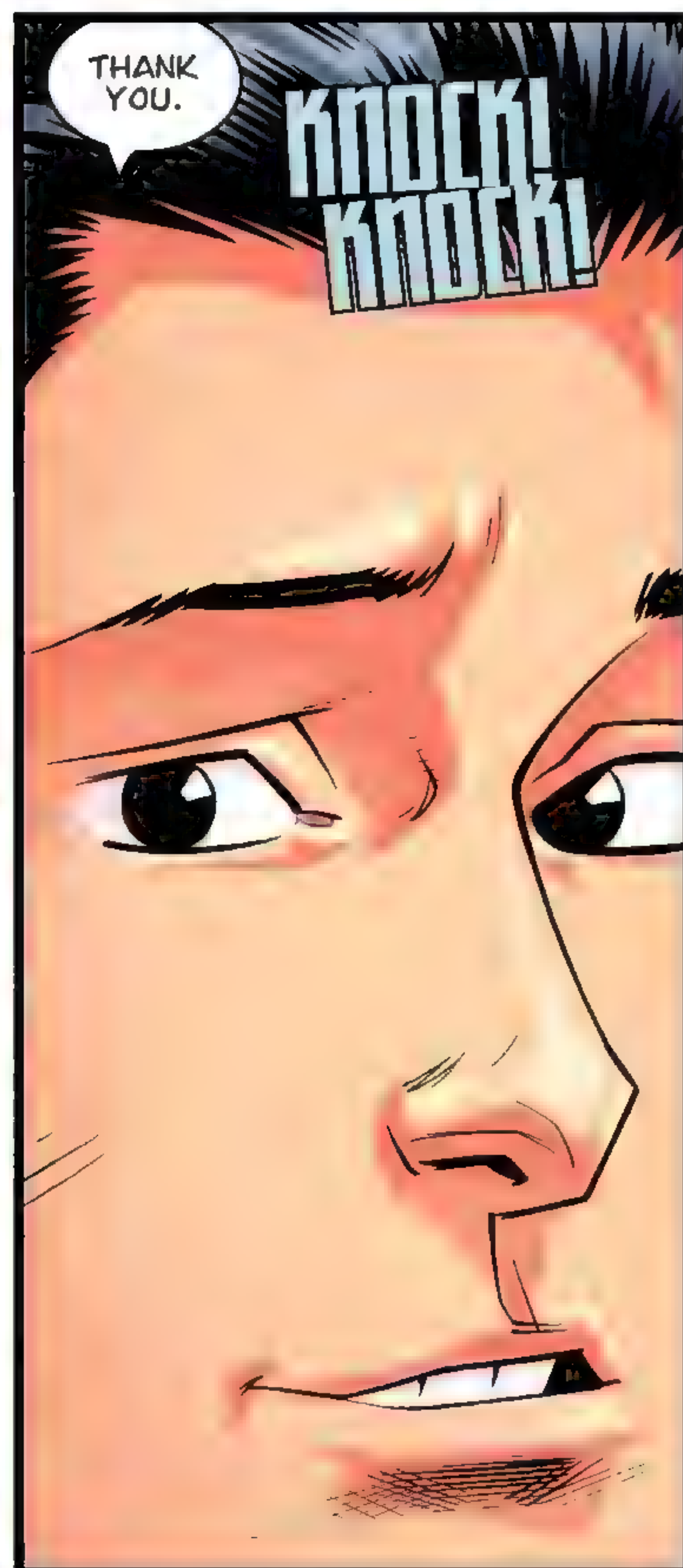
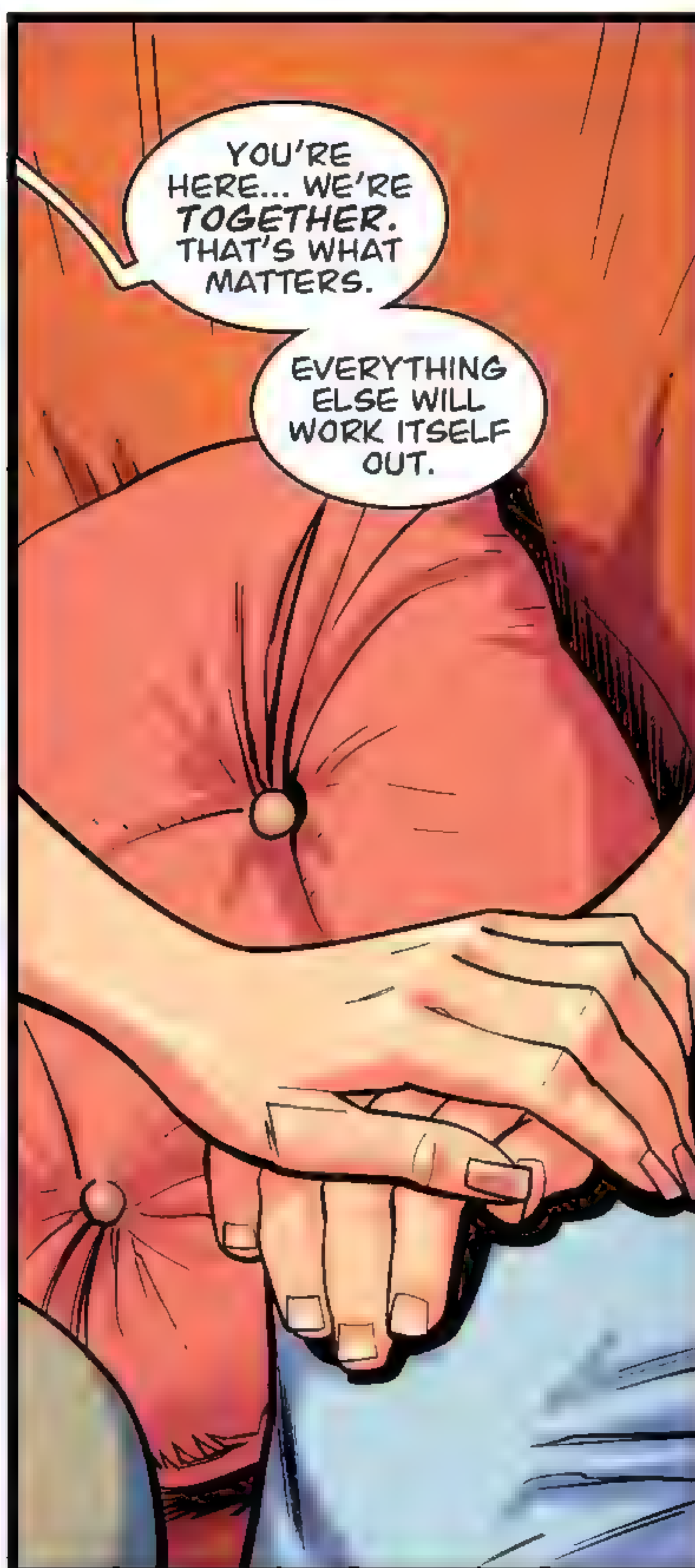
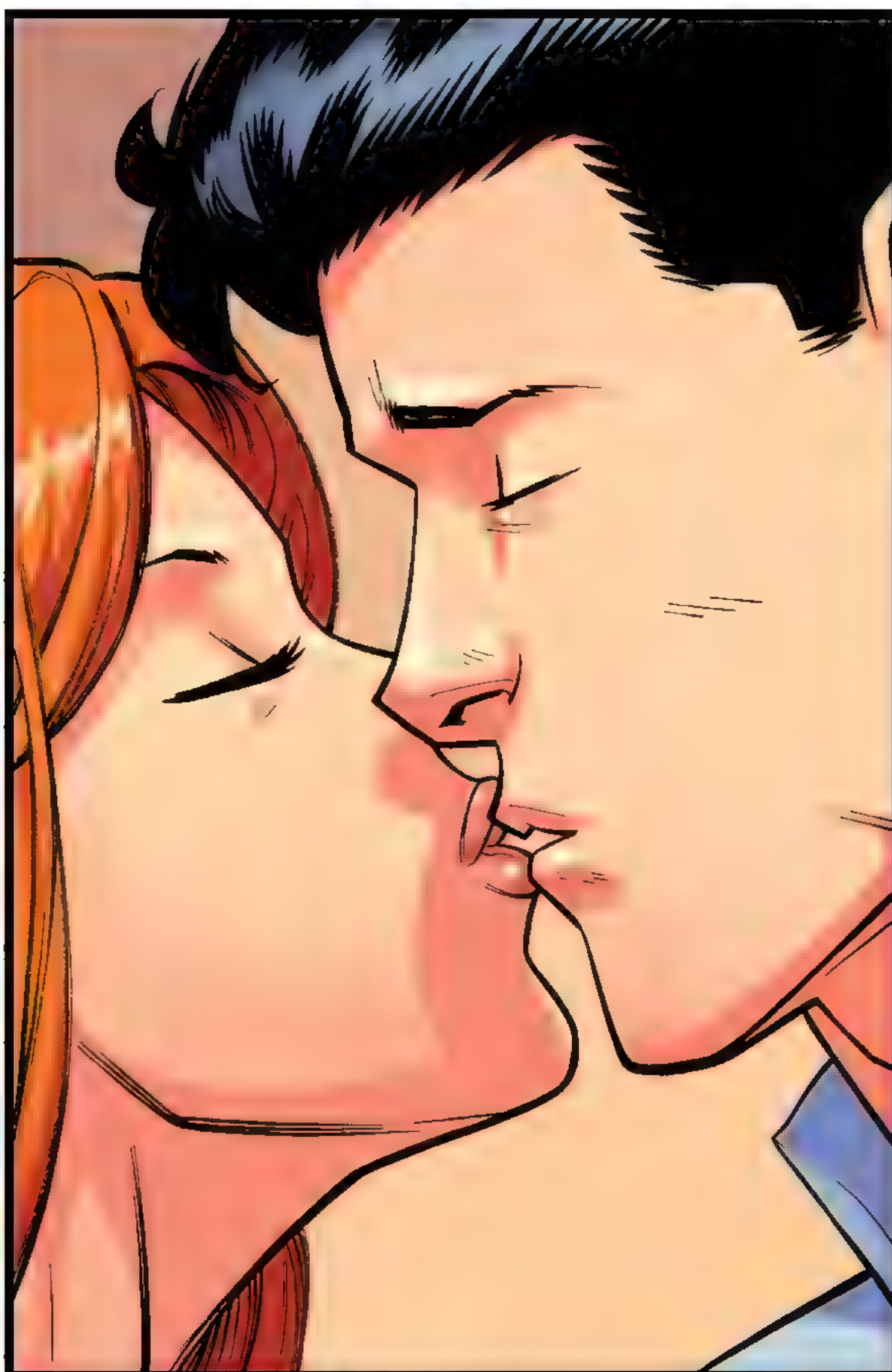


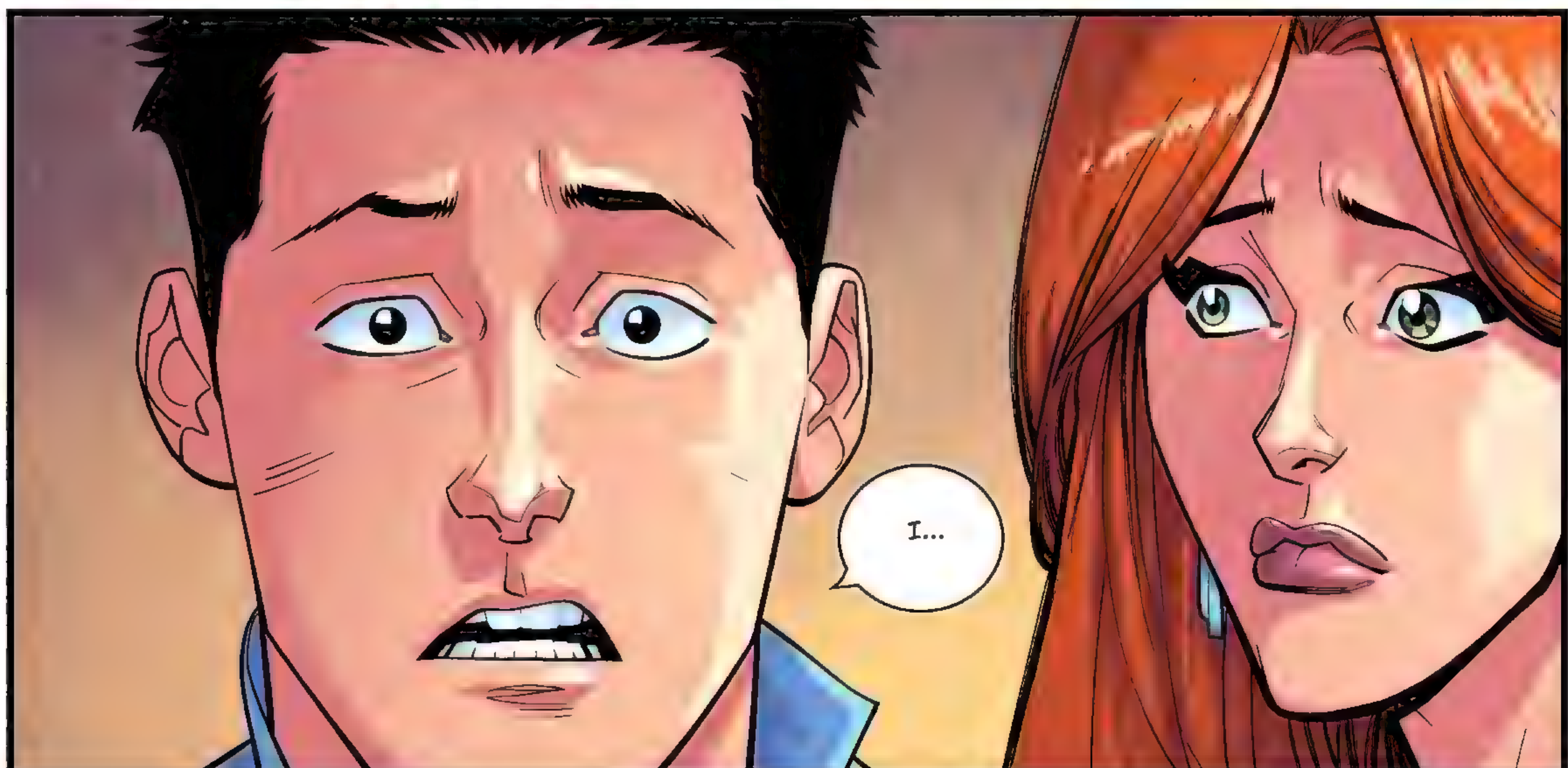














CHAPTER SIX



R. OTTLEY15



TH--

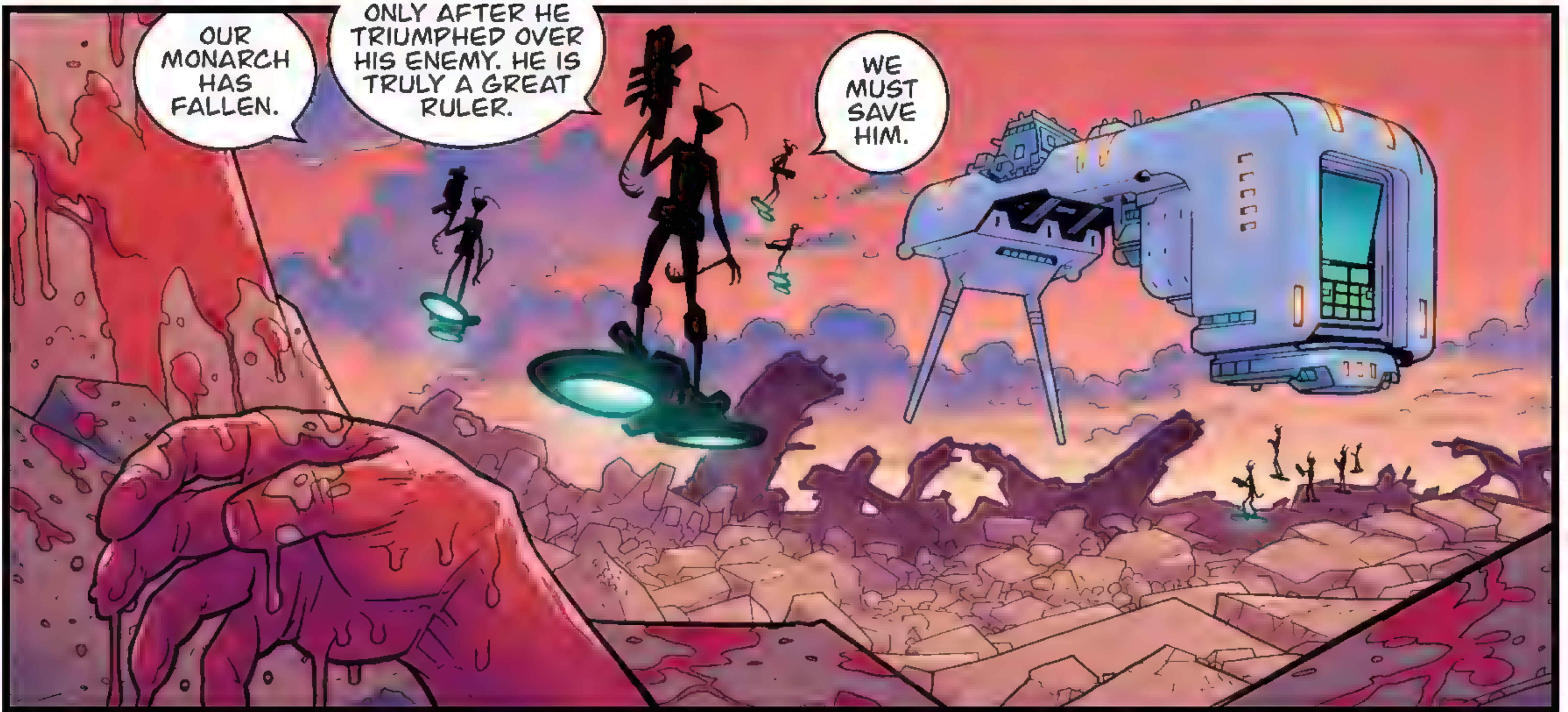
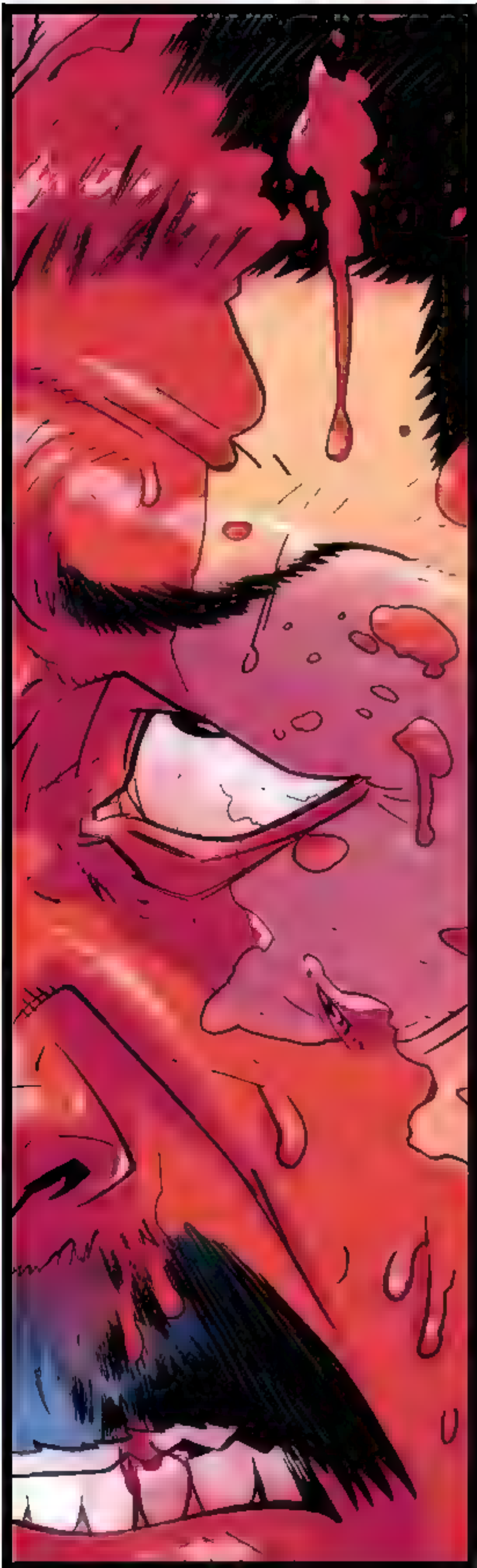
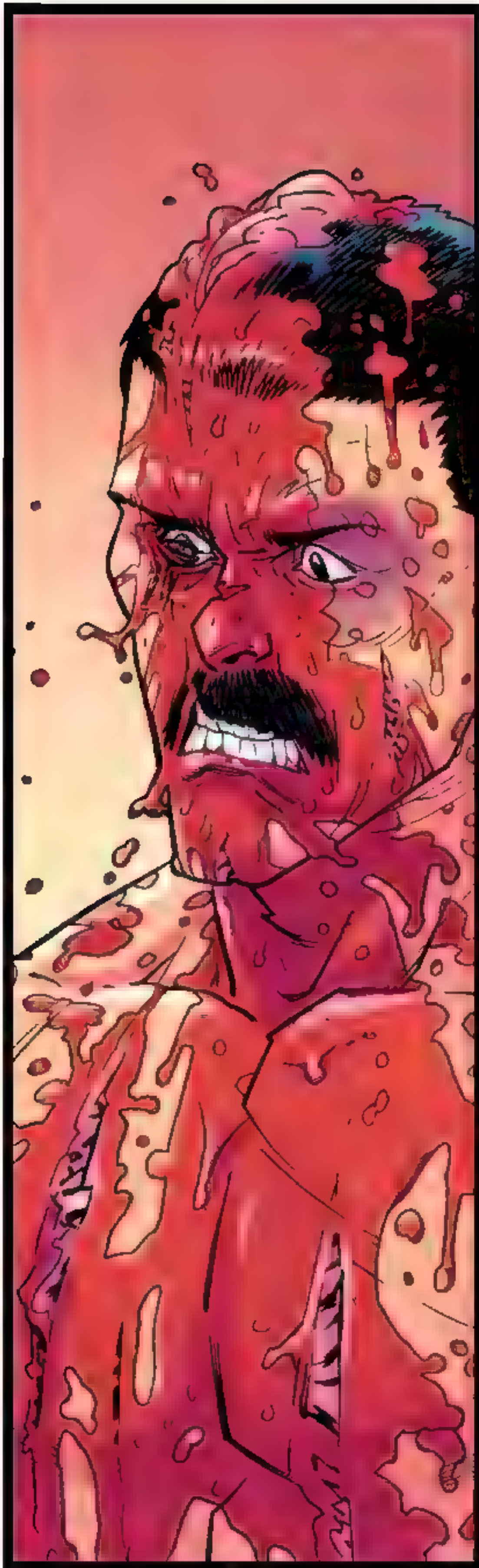
THANK...

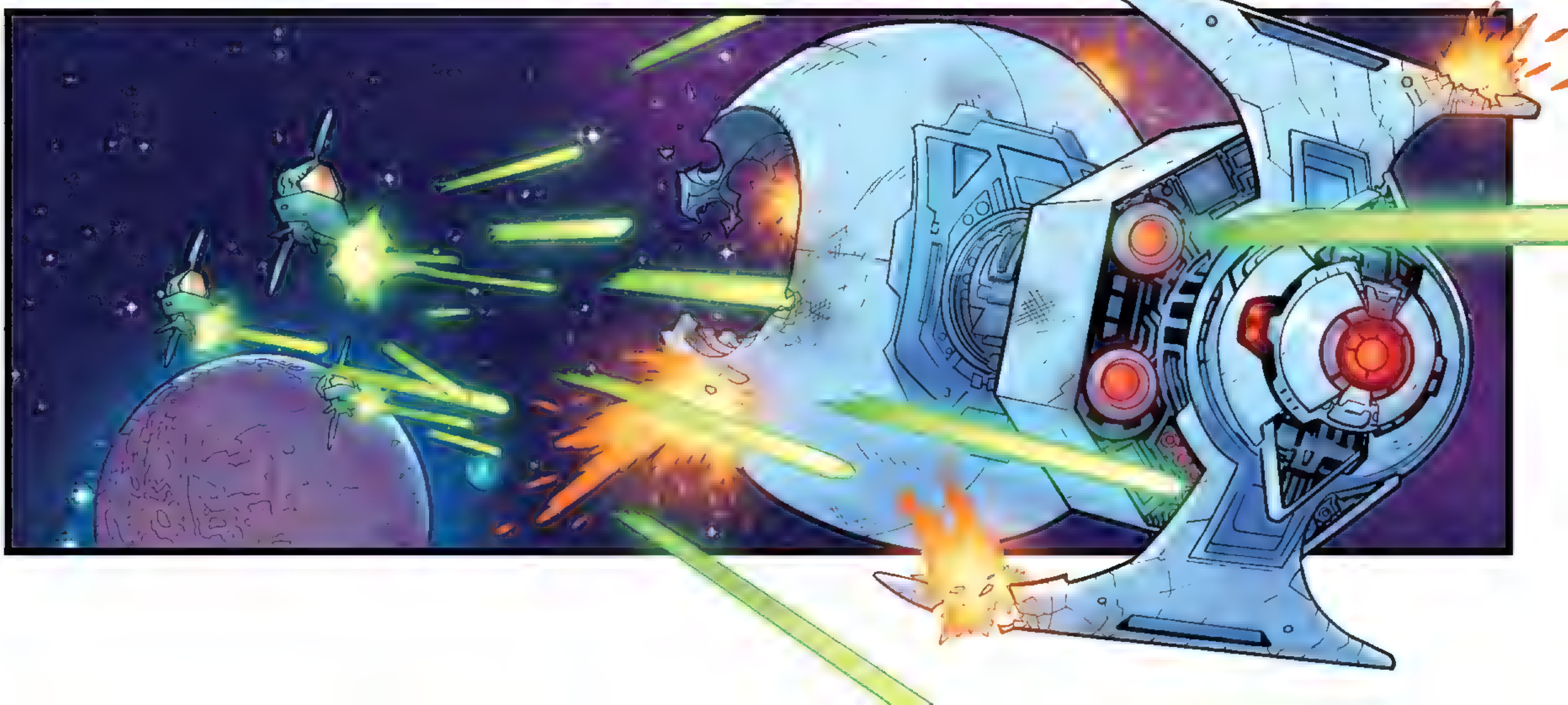
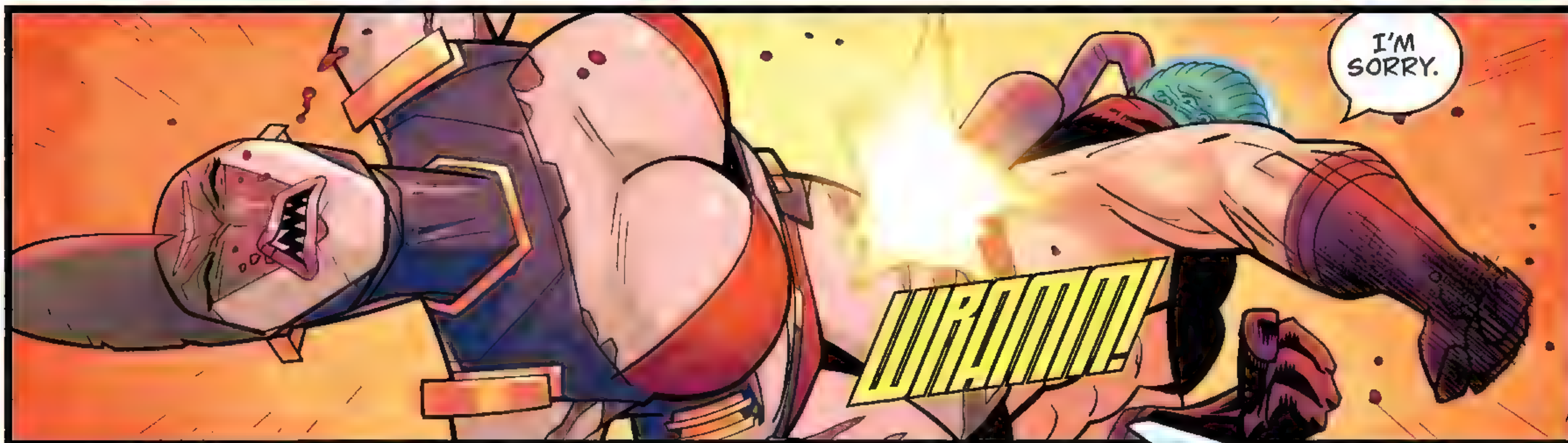
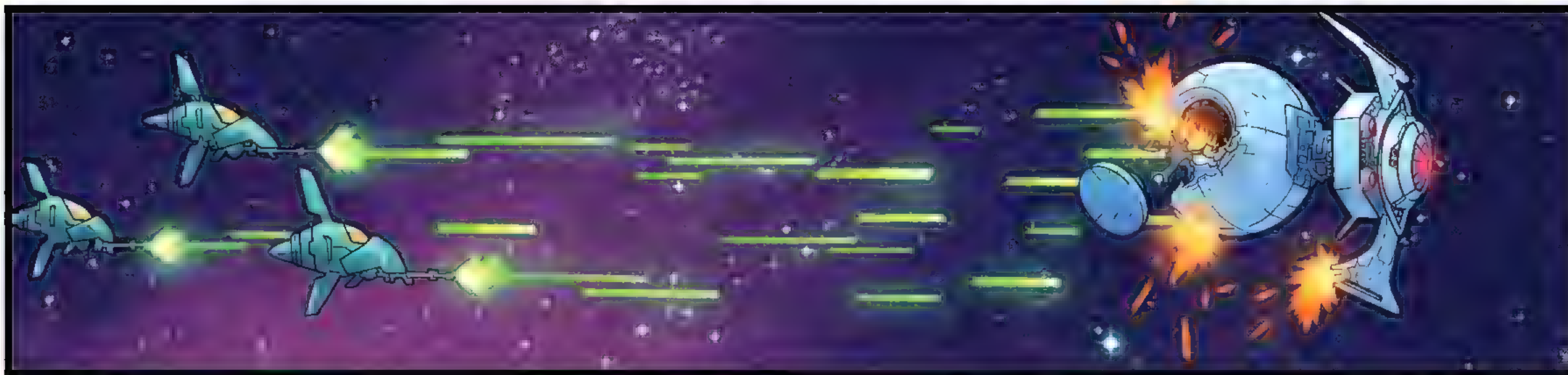
...YOU.



IT'S...
DONE.

POW!!!







WELL... THERE DEFINITELY WAS A HUGE BATTLE HERE... BUT THAT WAS A WHILE AGO.

THE FEED STOPPED ABRUPTLY FOUR DAYS AGO... CLEARLY THE FIGHT MUST HAVE STOPPED AT SOME POINT AFTER THAT.



YEAH... BUT WHO WON?



I'M GOING TO TAKE THE FACT THAT THRAGG HASN'T ATTACKED US YET AS A GOOD SIGN.

IS THIS WEIRD FOR YOU?



A LITTLE. BUT IT'S BEEN GENERATIONS SINCE I WAS BORN. THINGS MOVE SO FAST HERE... I BARELY RECOGNIZE THE PLACE, AND EVERYONE WHO WOULD REMEMBER ME IS LONG DEAD.

INCLUDING MY MOTHER.



I'M SORRY.

I WAS STILL A BABY WHEN I LEFT... AND I'VE BEEN WELL AWARE SINCE THEN THAT SHE PROBABLY DIED A MATTER OF DAYS AFTER I LAST SAW HER.



SO... WE NEED TO FIND BATTLE BEAST AND GET OUT OF HERE THEN... RIGHT?

YOU SEEK THE BATTLE BEAST?



THE ONE KNOWN AS BATTLE BEAST WAS ABLE TO DESTROY MANY OF OUR CITIES AND KILL MANY OF OUR KIND BEFORE MONARCH THRAGG DEFEATED HIM.

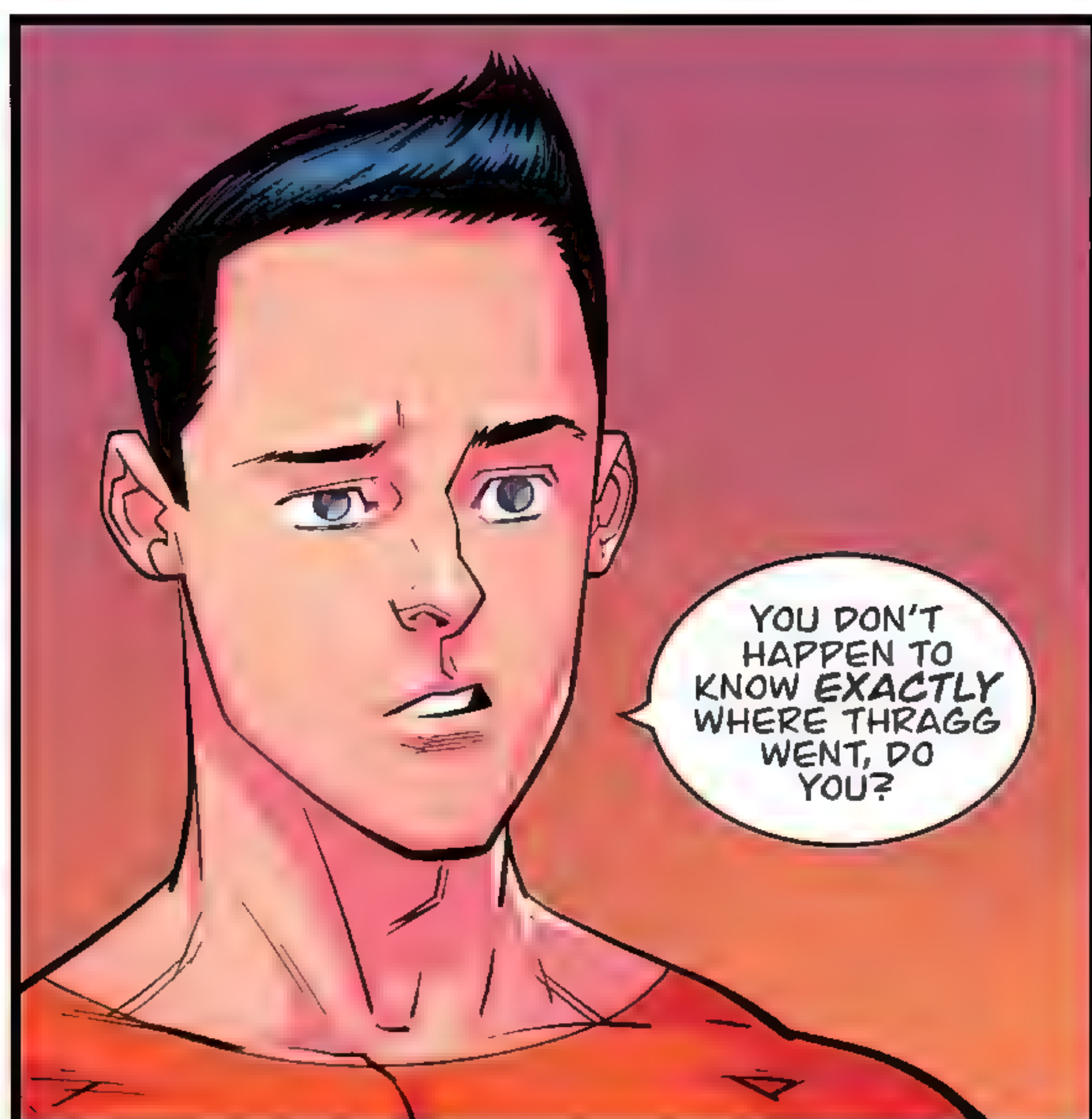
HIS BODY WAS BURNED IN A MASSIVE CELEBRATION THAT WAS HELD LONG AGO.

THAT WAS THE DAY OUR GREAT MONARCH LEFT THE PLANET. HE TOOK ALL OF OUR WARRIORS AND MANY OF OUR WOMEN... WE HAVE MISSED HIM EVERY MOMENT SINCE.

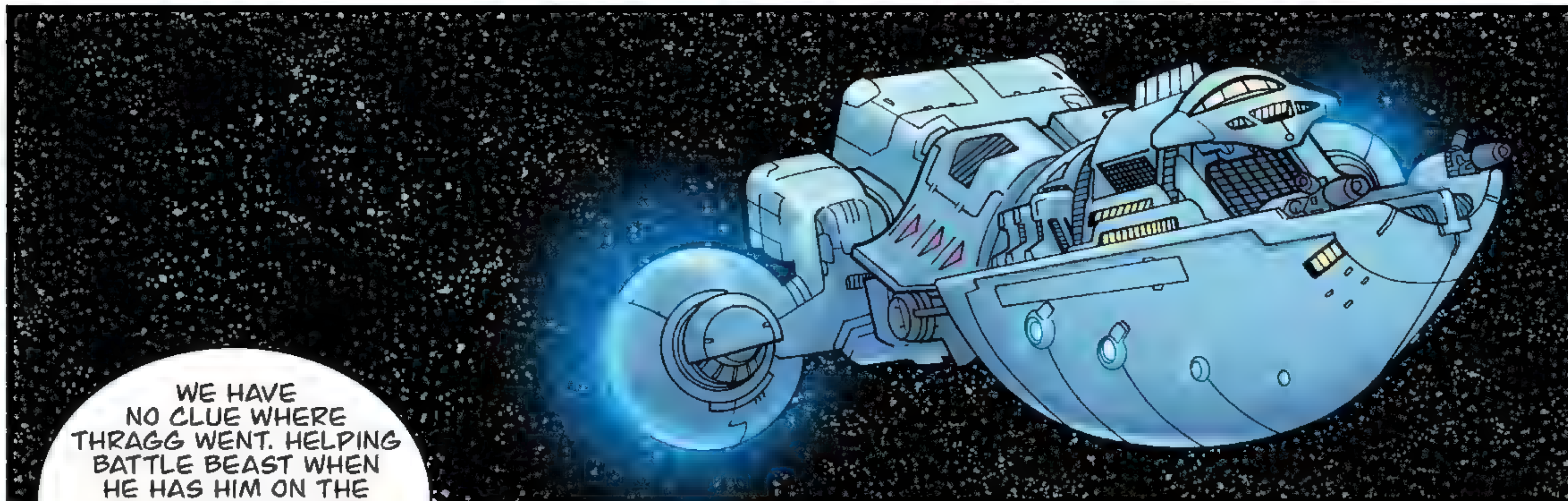


OKAY... THAT'S NOT HOW WE WANTED THINGS TO GO.

DAMN.



YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THRAGG WENT, DO YOU?



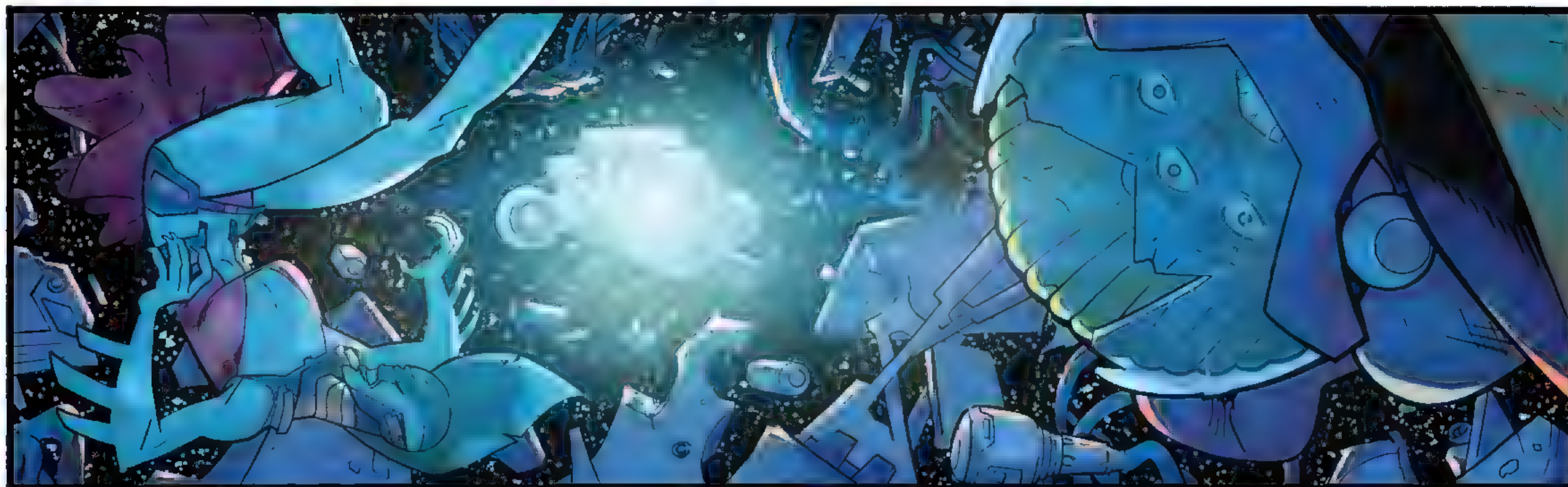
WE HAVE
NO CLUE WHERE
THRAGG WENT. HELPING
BATTLE BEAST WHEN
HE HAS HIM ON THE
ROPES IS ONE THING...
BUT IF WE WERE TO
SOMEHOW FIND HIM...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
WE'D DO.



I'M WORRIED THAT
THERE'S NO SIGN
OF SPACE RACER
AND THRESHA'S
SHIP...

WE'RE
DETECTING
A DEBRIS
FIELD
AHEAD.

FULL
STOP.



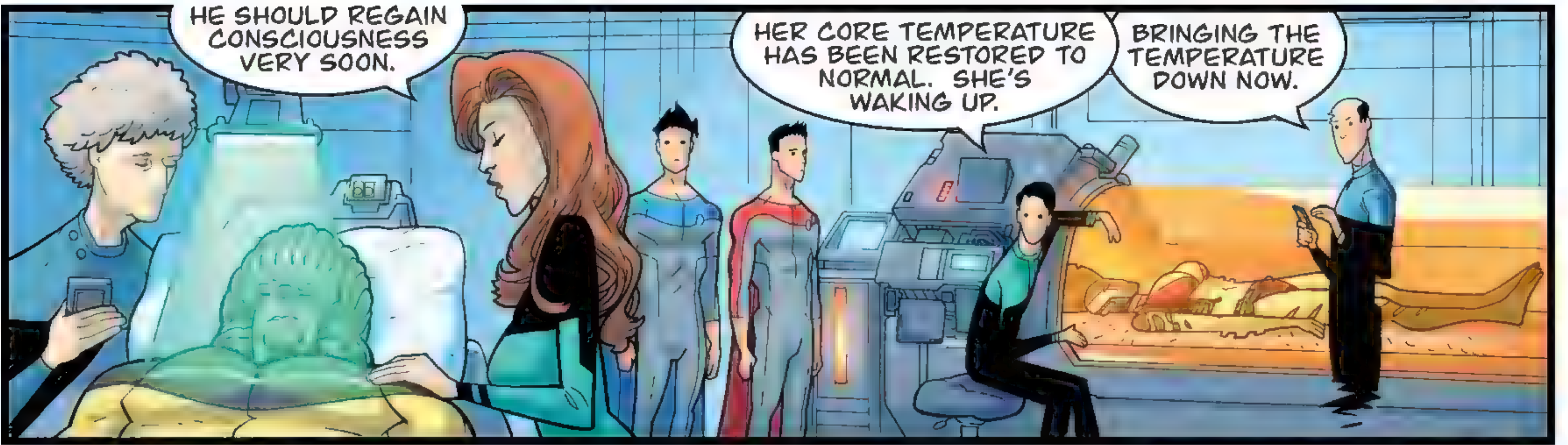
THERE ARE FAINT LIFE
SIGNS COMING FROM
BOTH HUMANIDS ADRIPT.
IT WOULD APPEAR THEY
ARE... ALIVE.

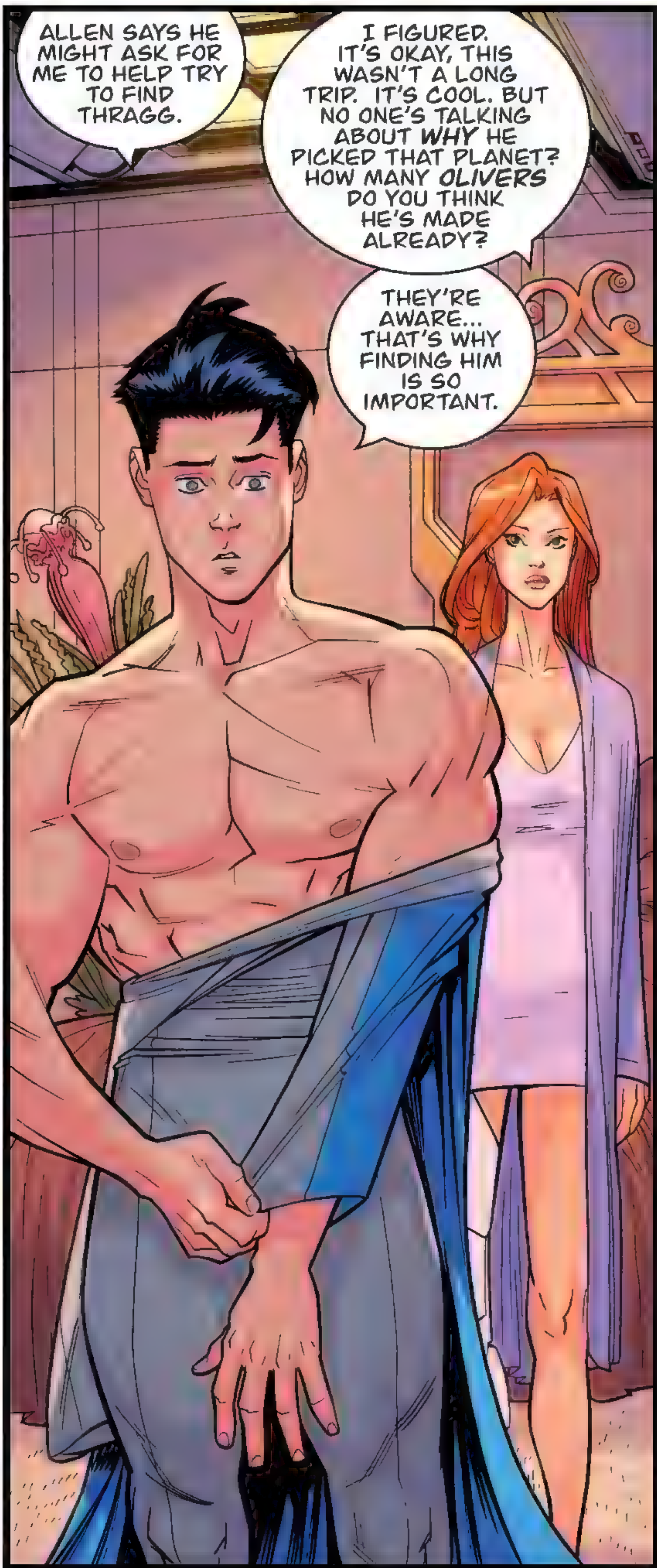
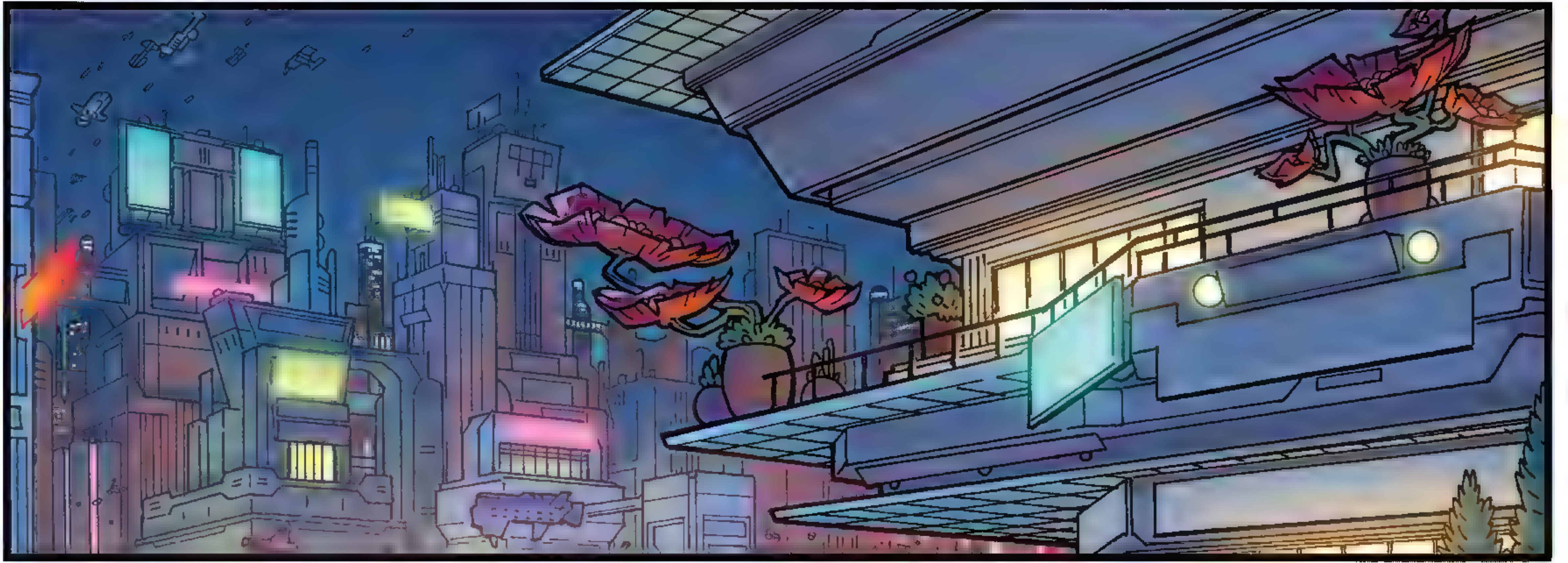
CAPTAIN, OUR
TRACTOR BEAM
COULD SMASH
THEM AGAINST
DEBRIS ON THE WAY IN.
I RECOMMEND I LEAD
AN AWAY TEAM TO--



WE'LL
GO.

SHOW
US TO AN
AIRLOCK.

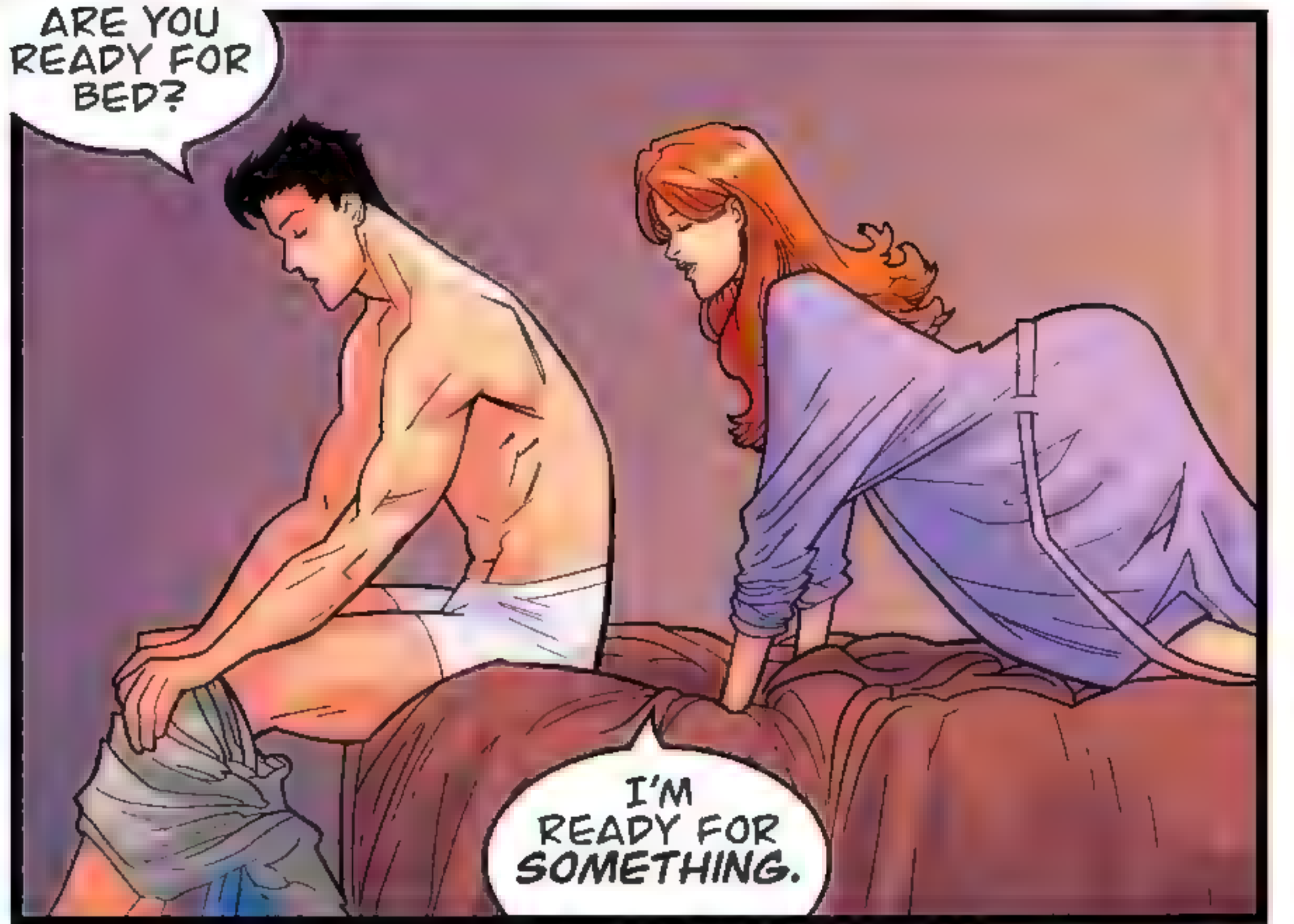




ALLEN SAYS HE MIGHT ASK FOR ME TO HELP TRY TO FIND THRAGG.

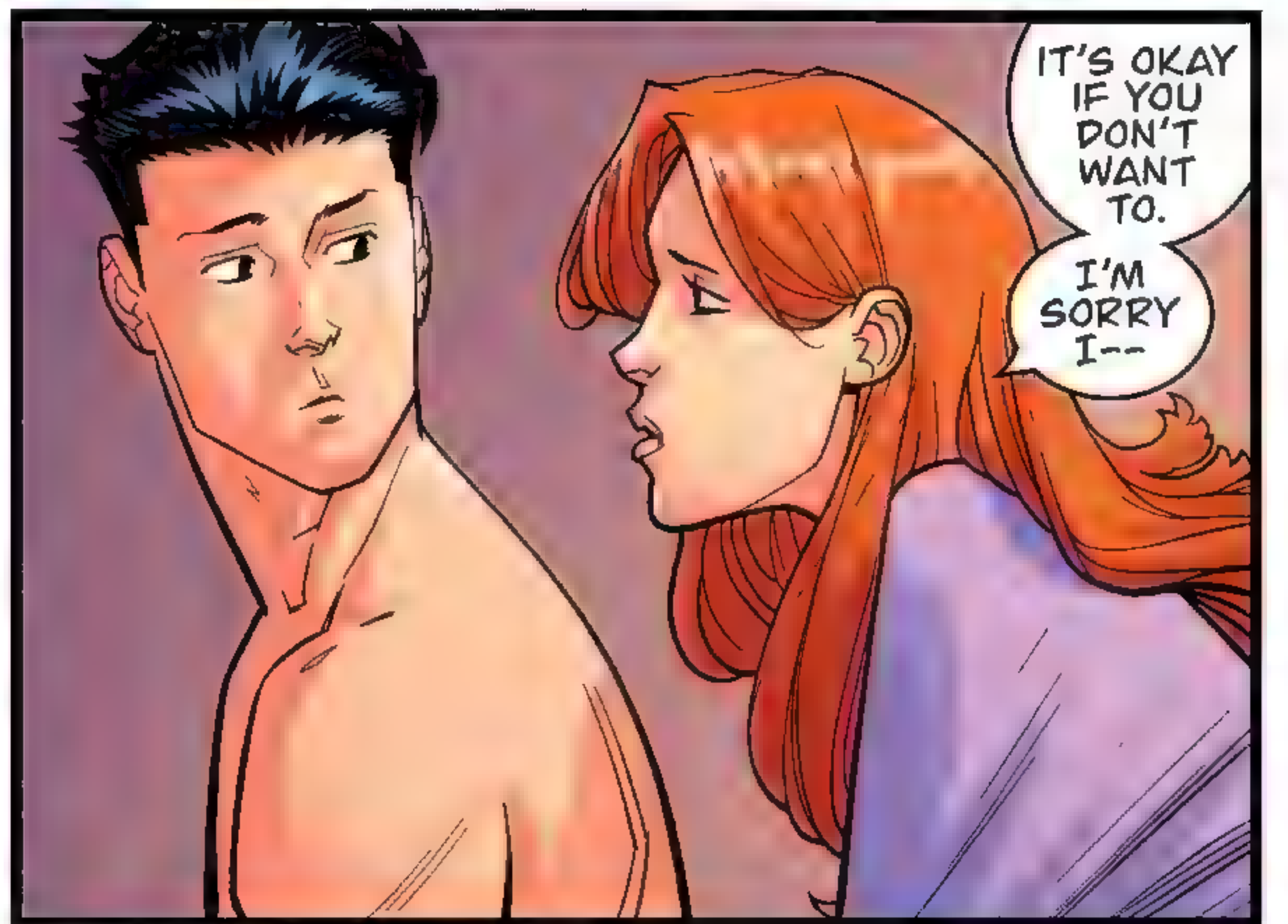
I FIGURED. IT'S OKAY, THIS WASN'T A LONG TRIP. IT'S COOL. BUT NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT WHY HE PICKED THAT PLANET? HOW MANY OLIVERS DO YOU THINK HE'S MADE ALREADY?

THEY'RE AWARE... THAT'S WHY FINDING HIM IS SO IMPORTANT.



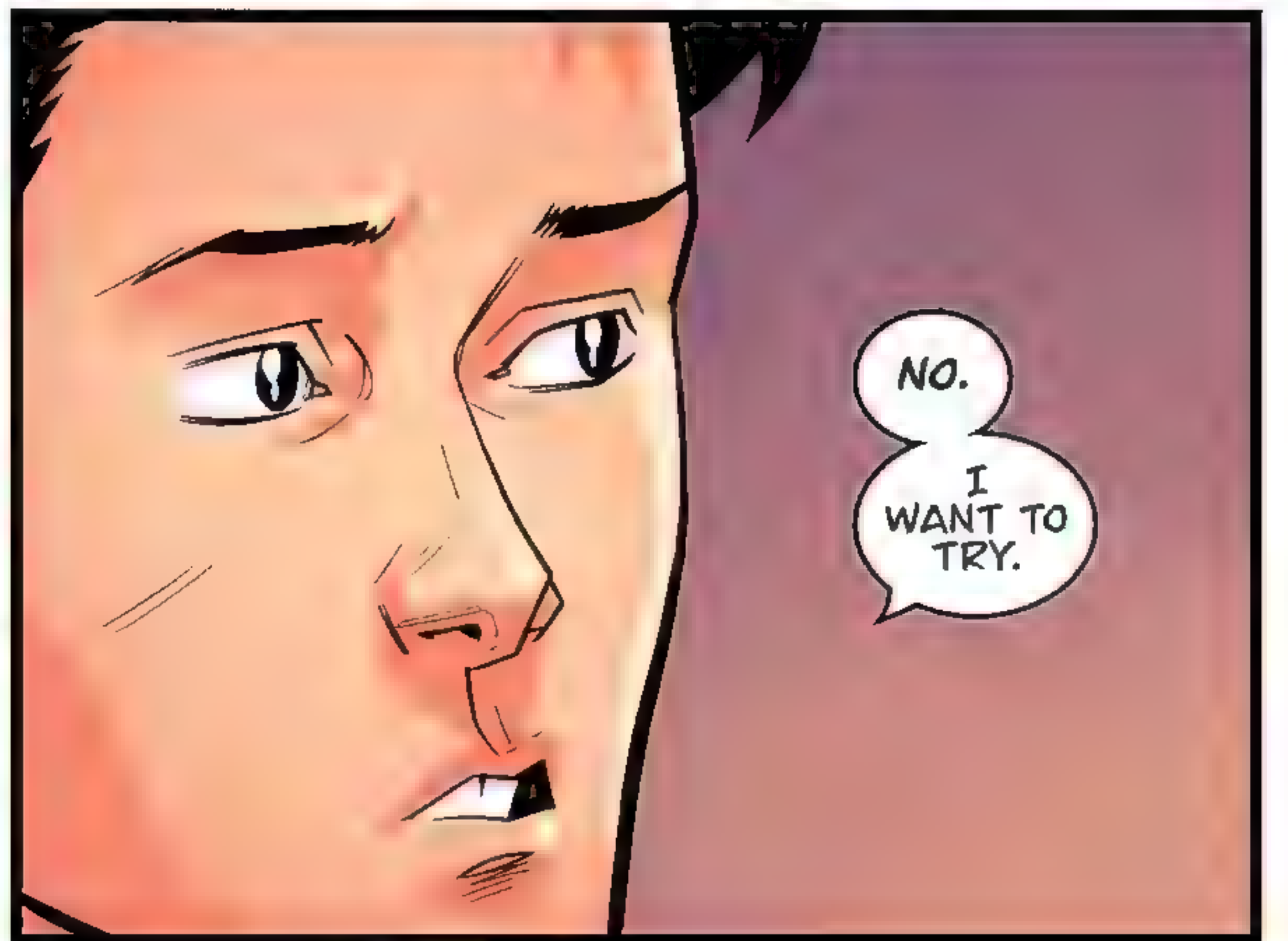
ARE YOU READY FOR BED?

I'M READY FOR SOMETHING.



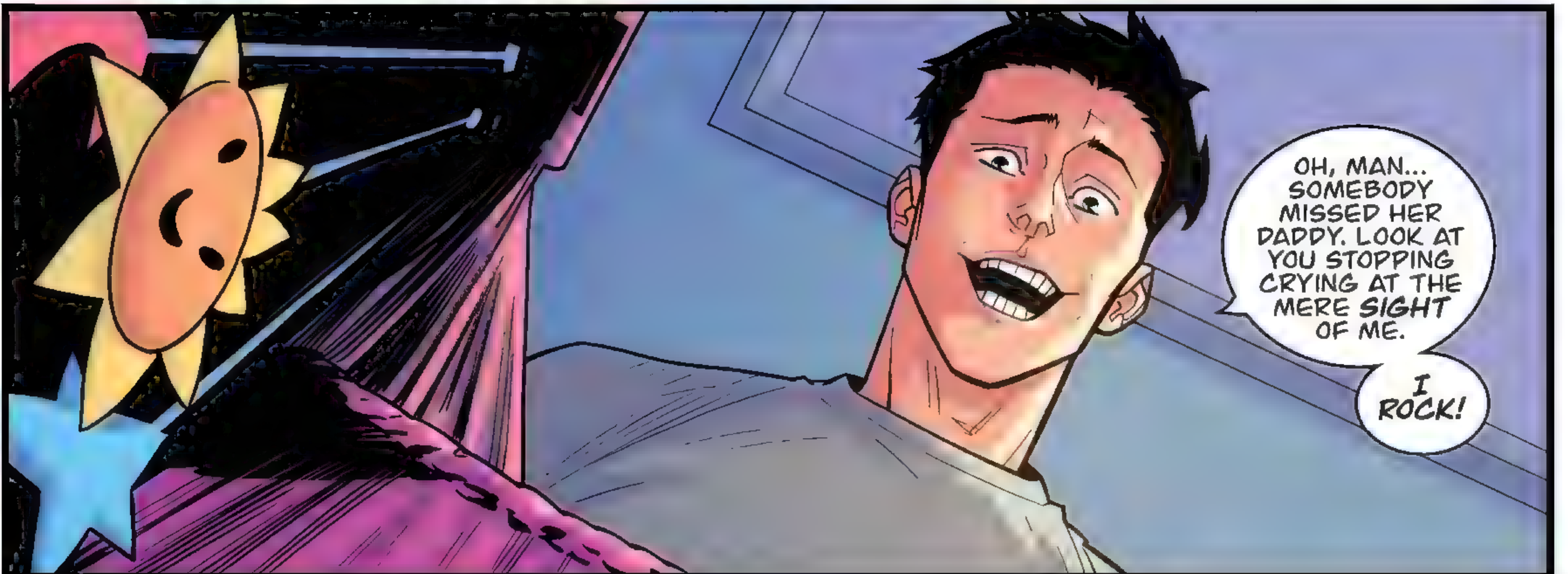
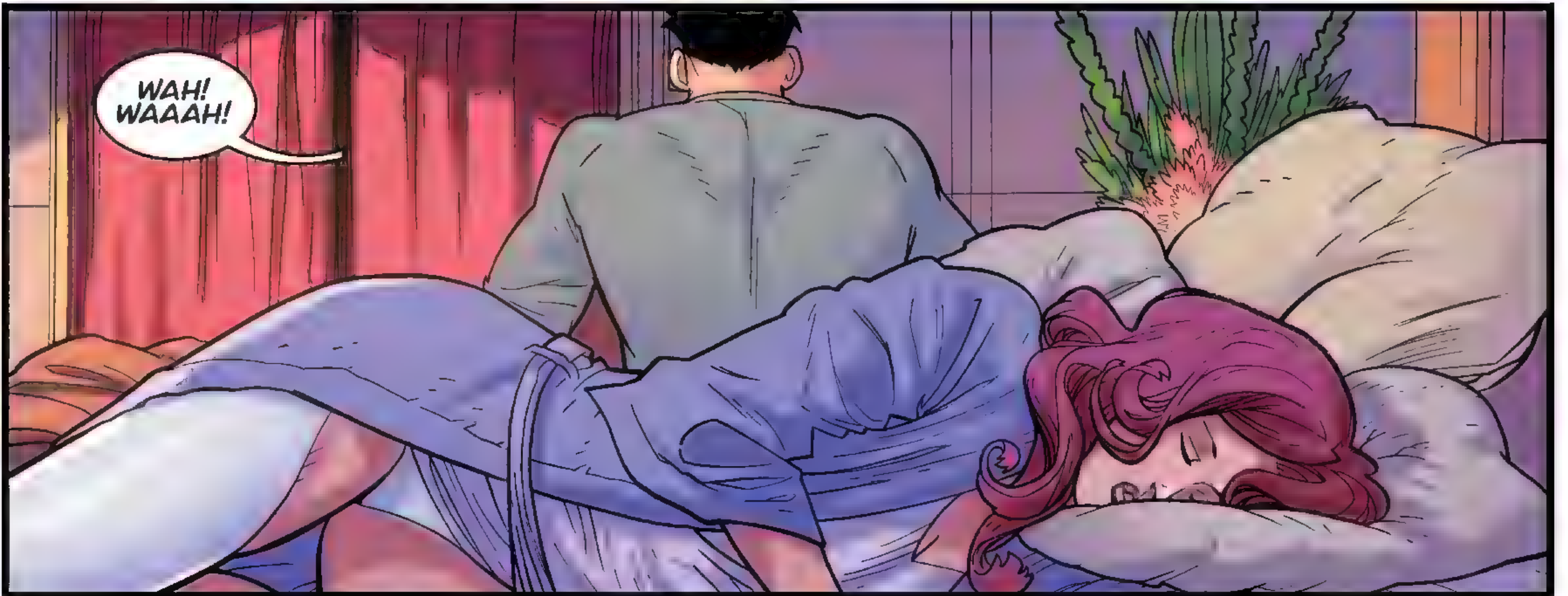
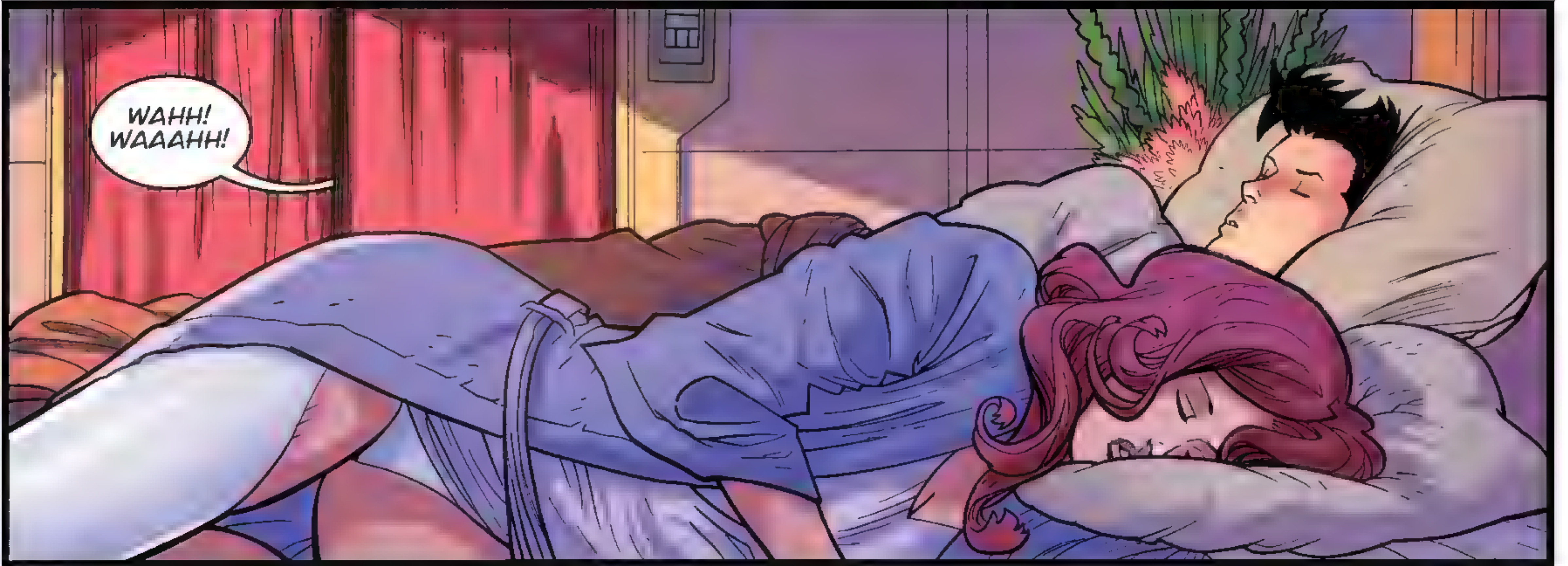
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

I'M SORRY I--

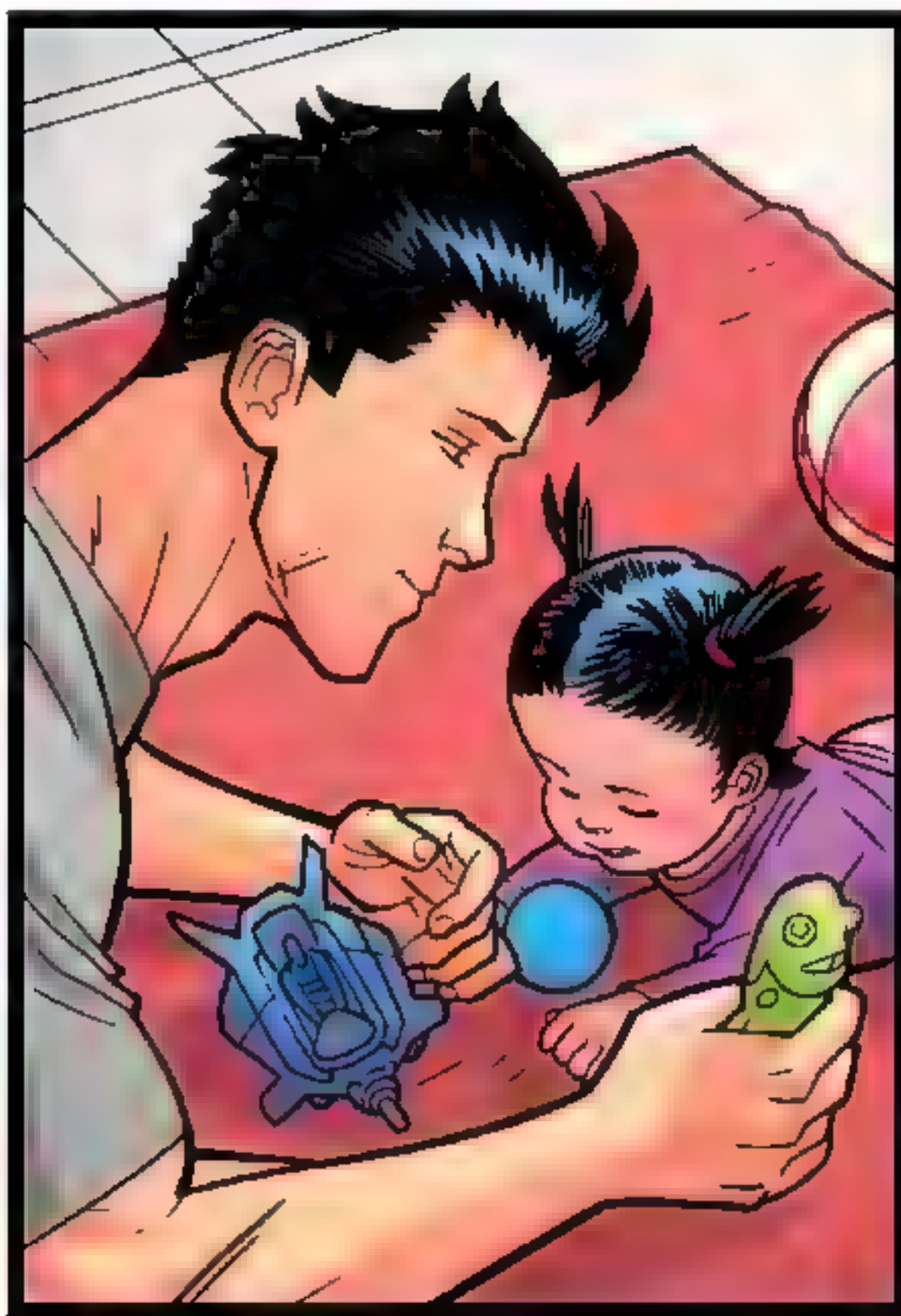
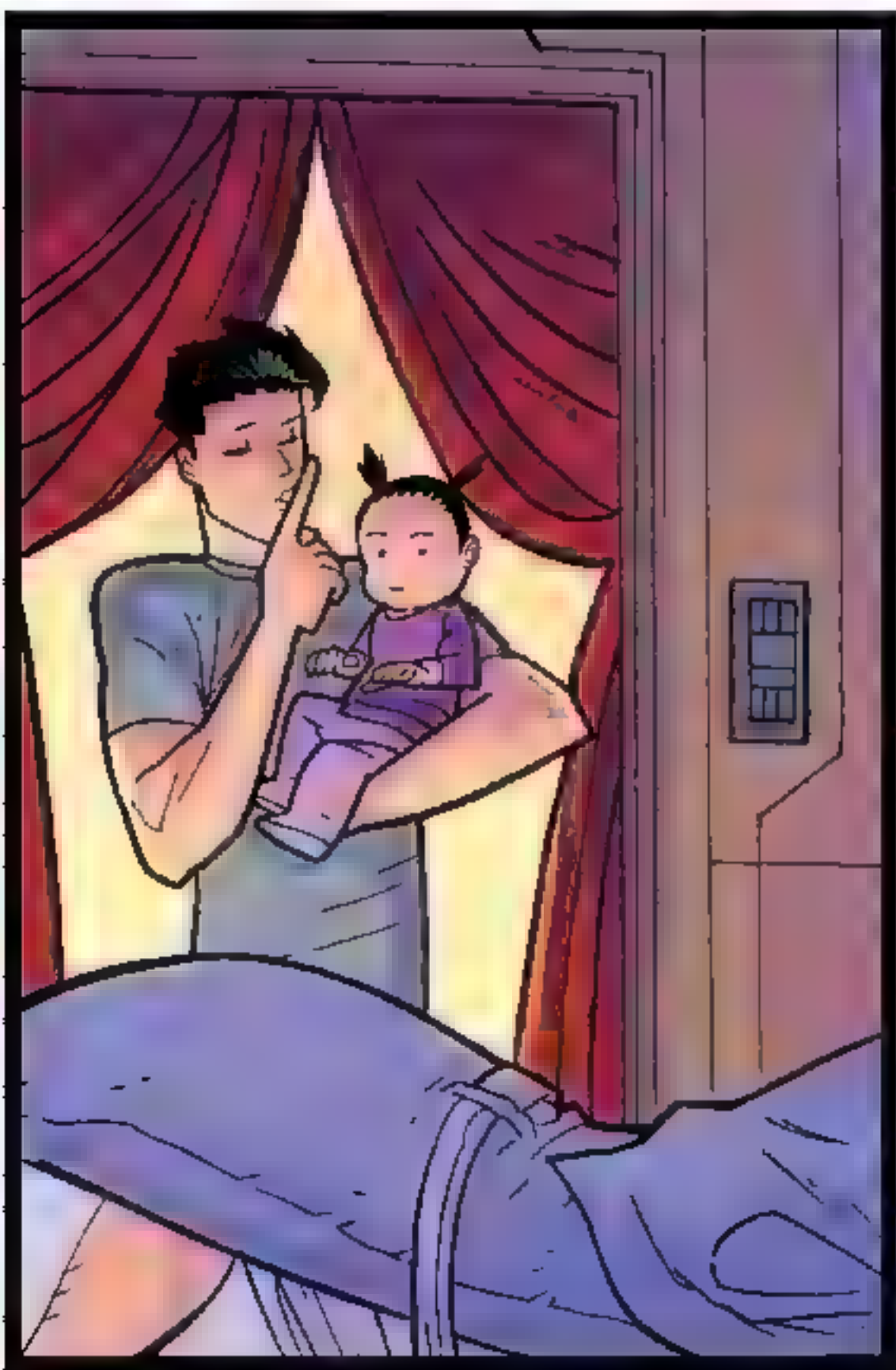
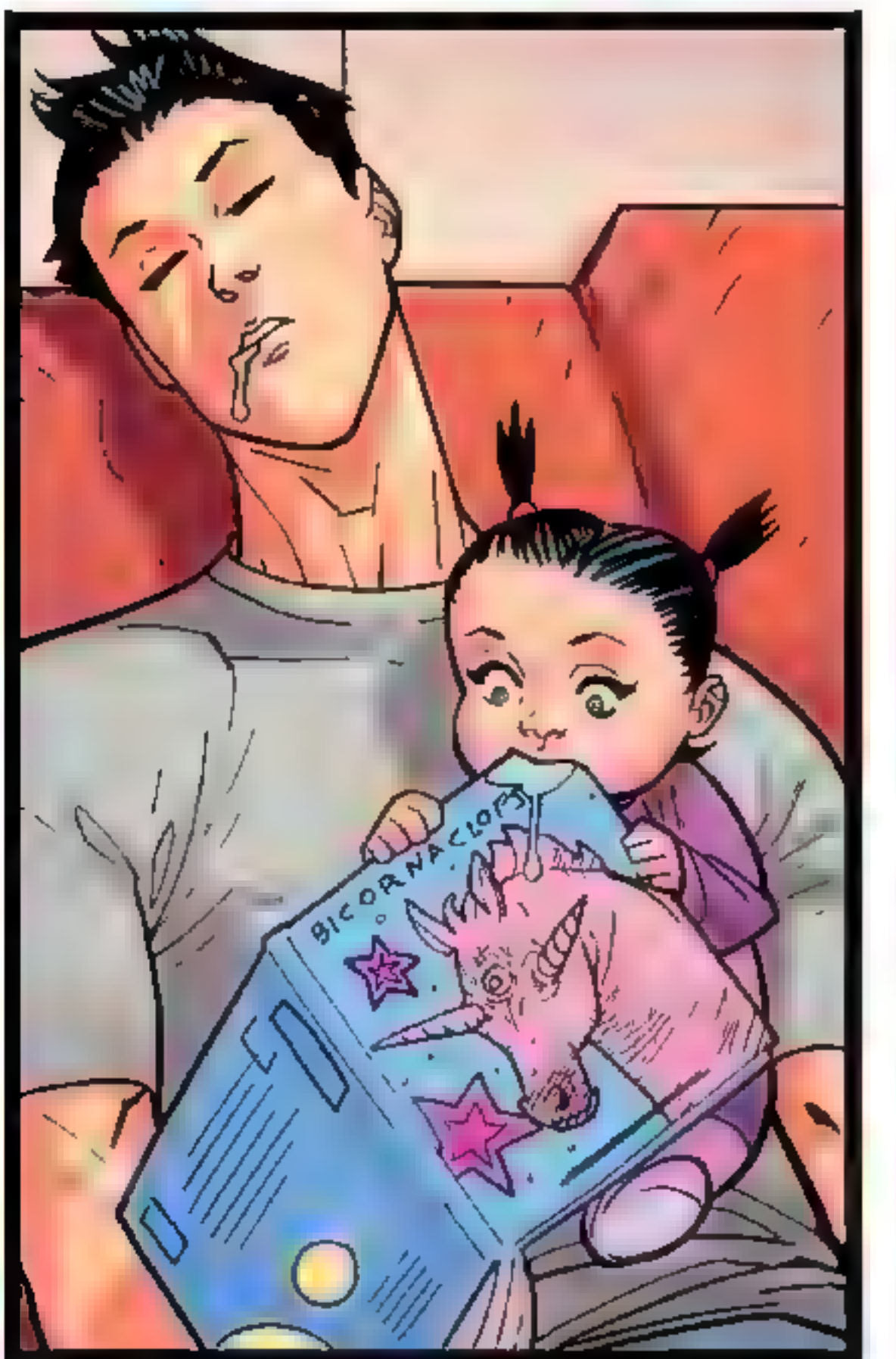
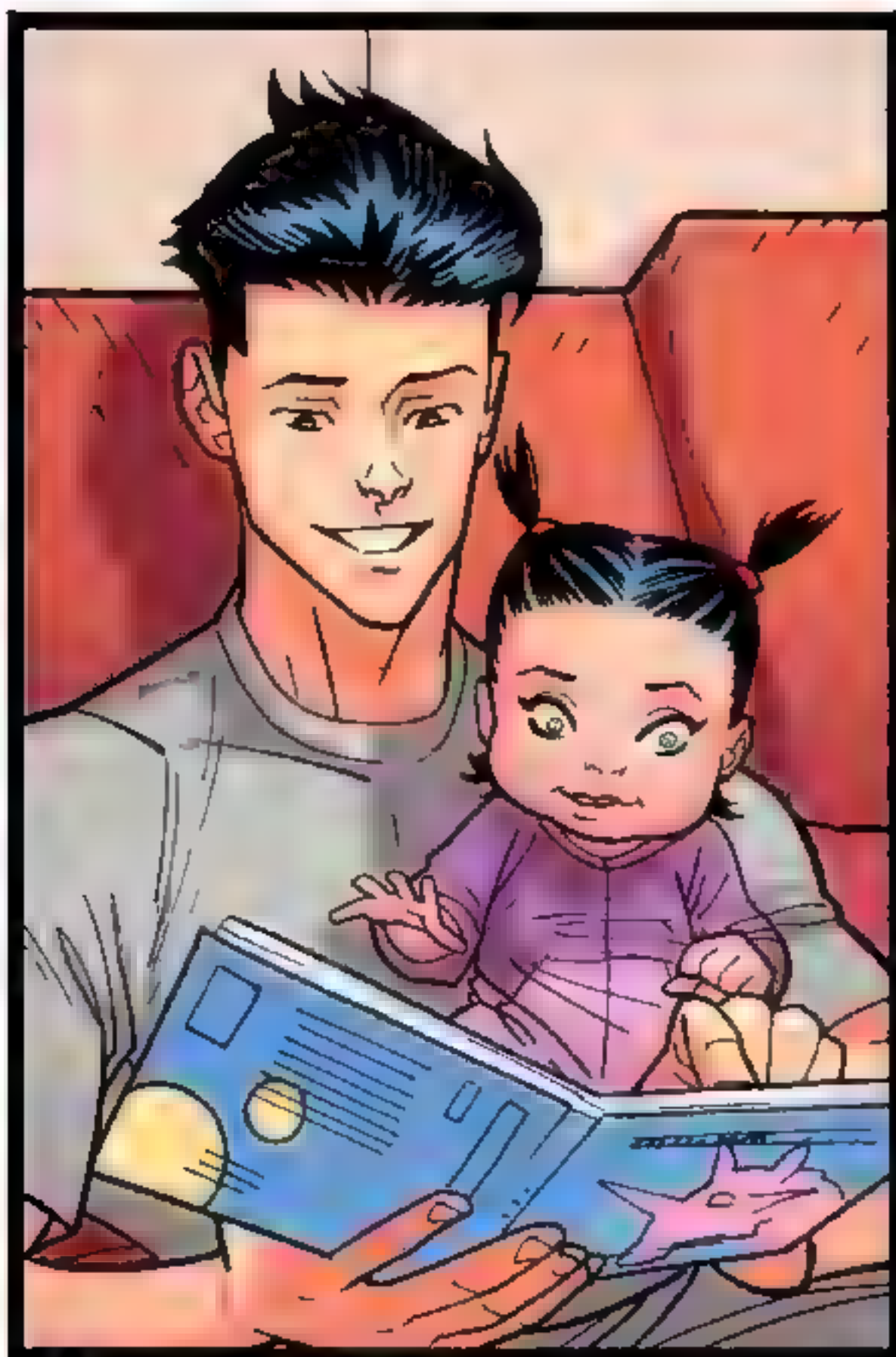
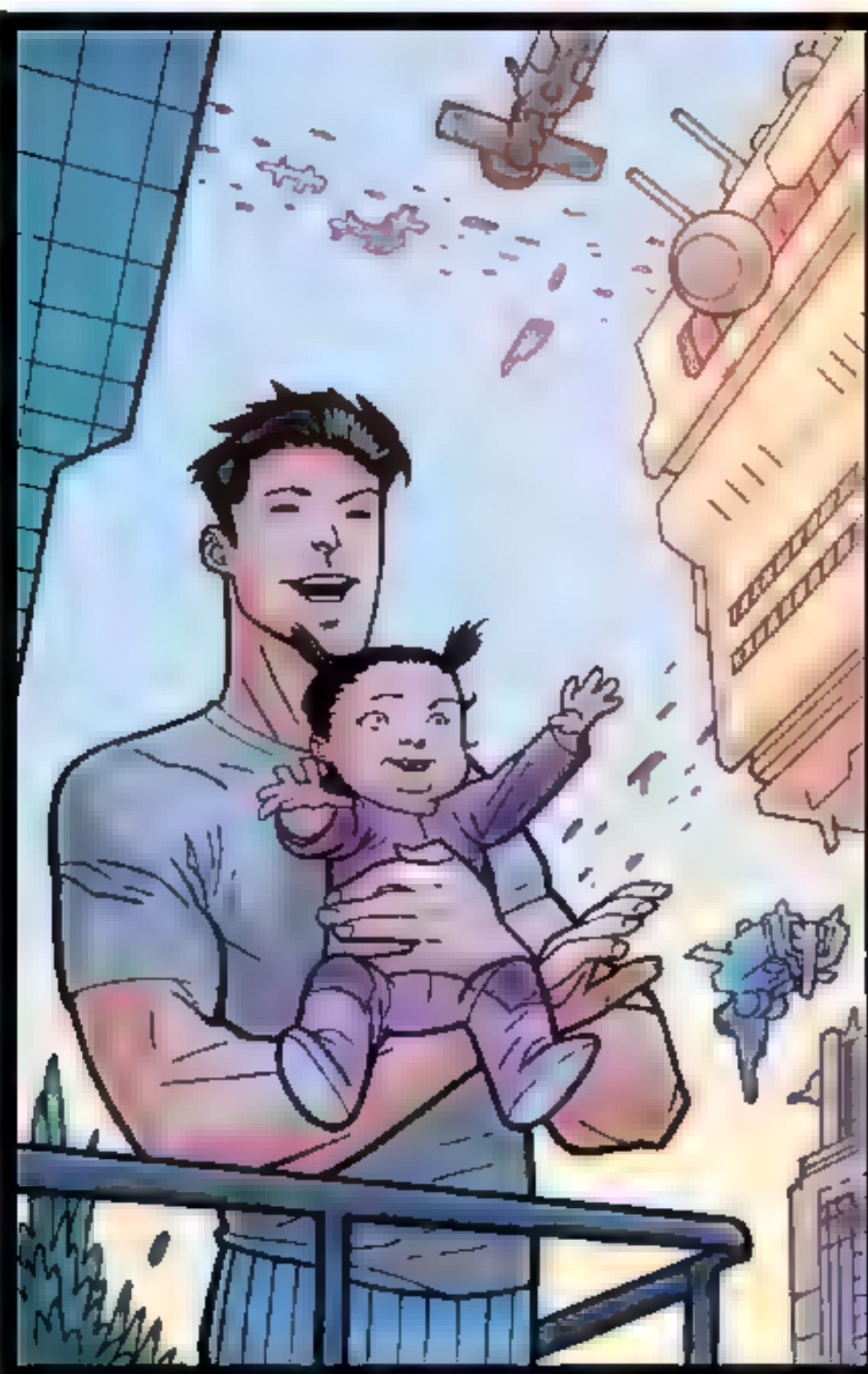
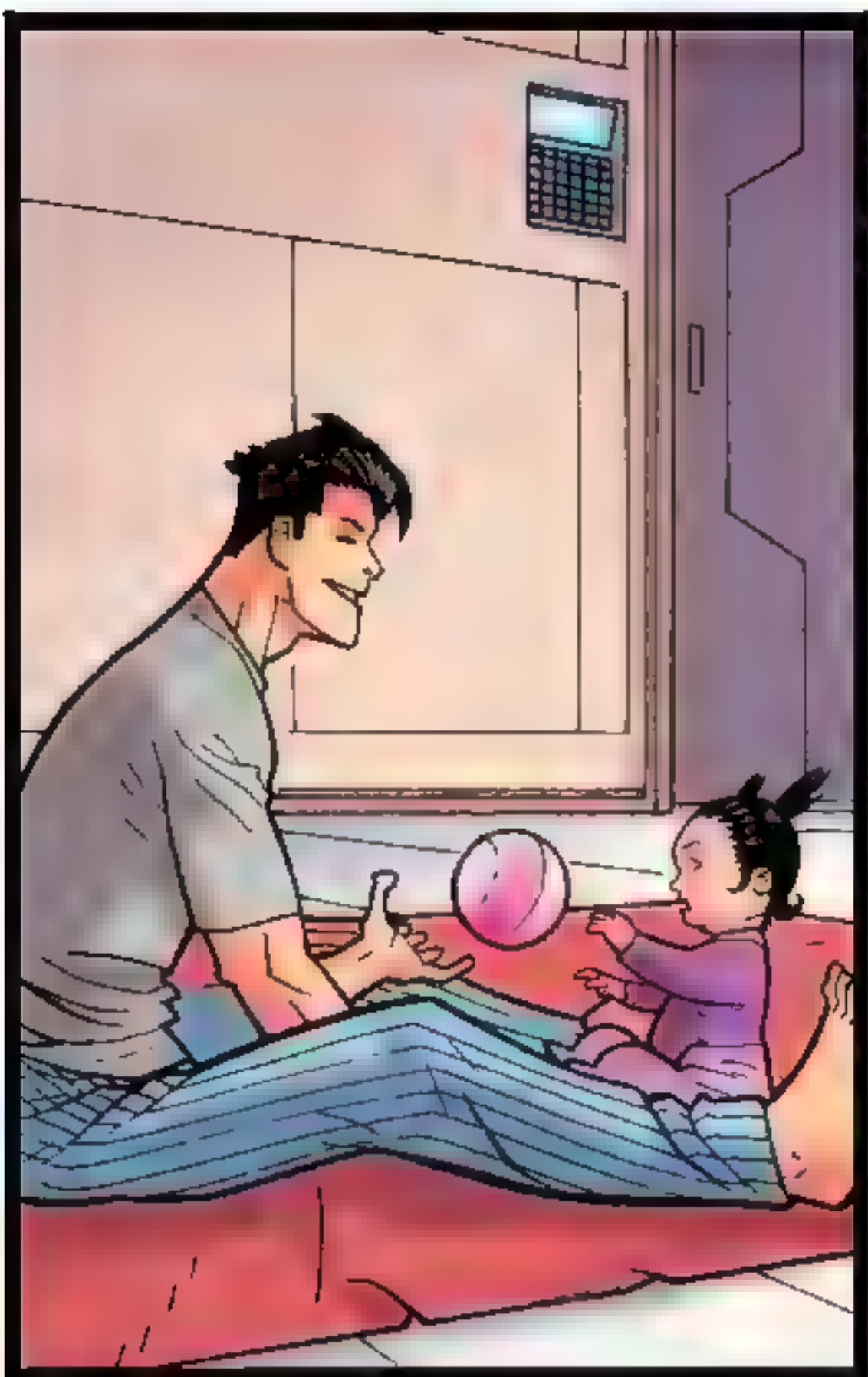
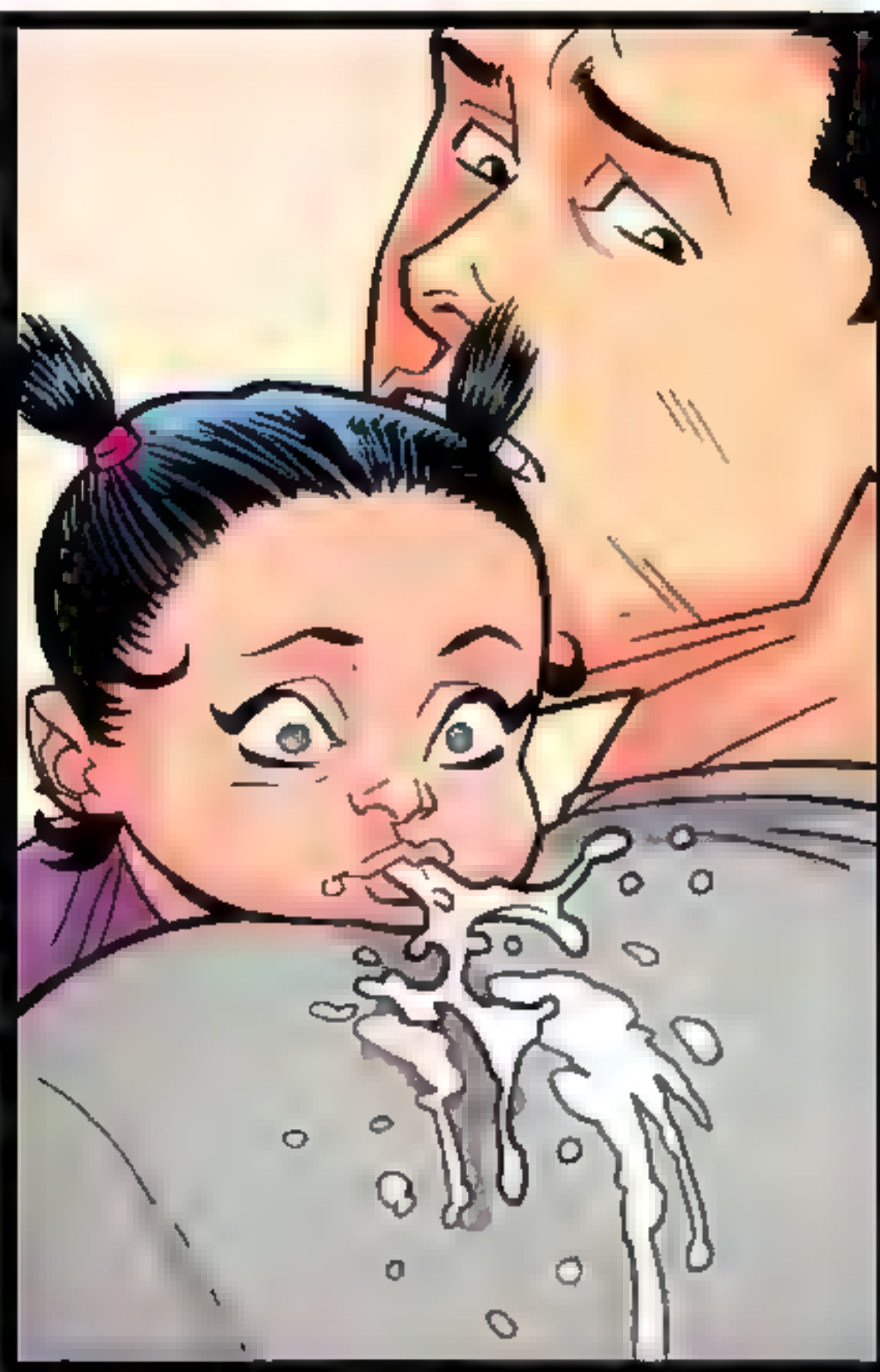
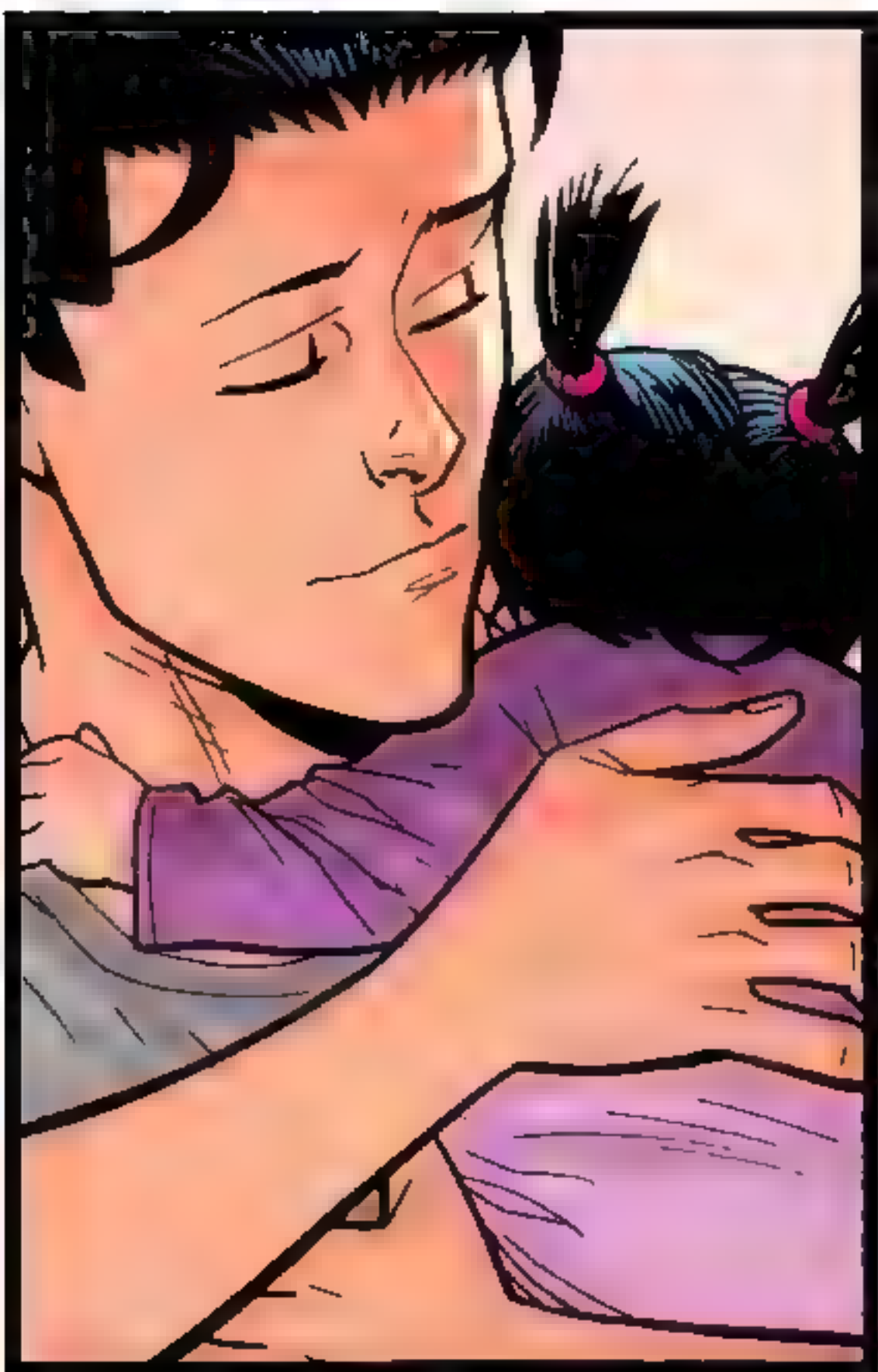
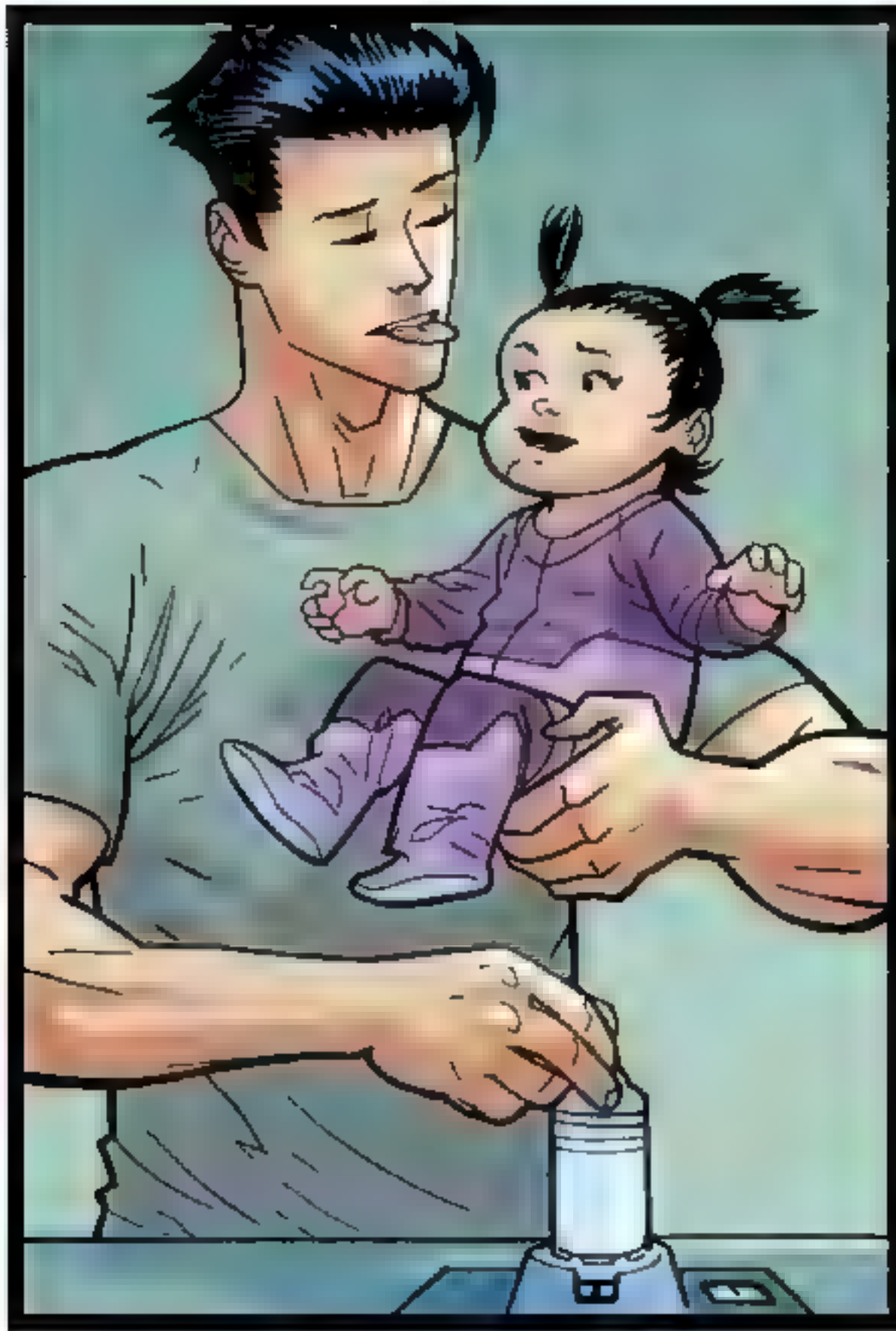
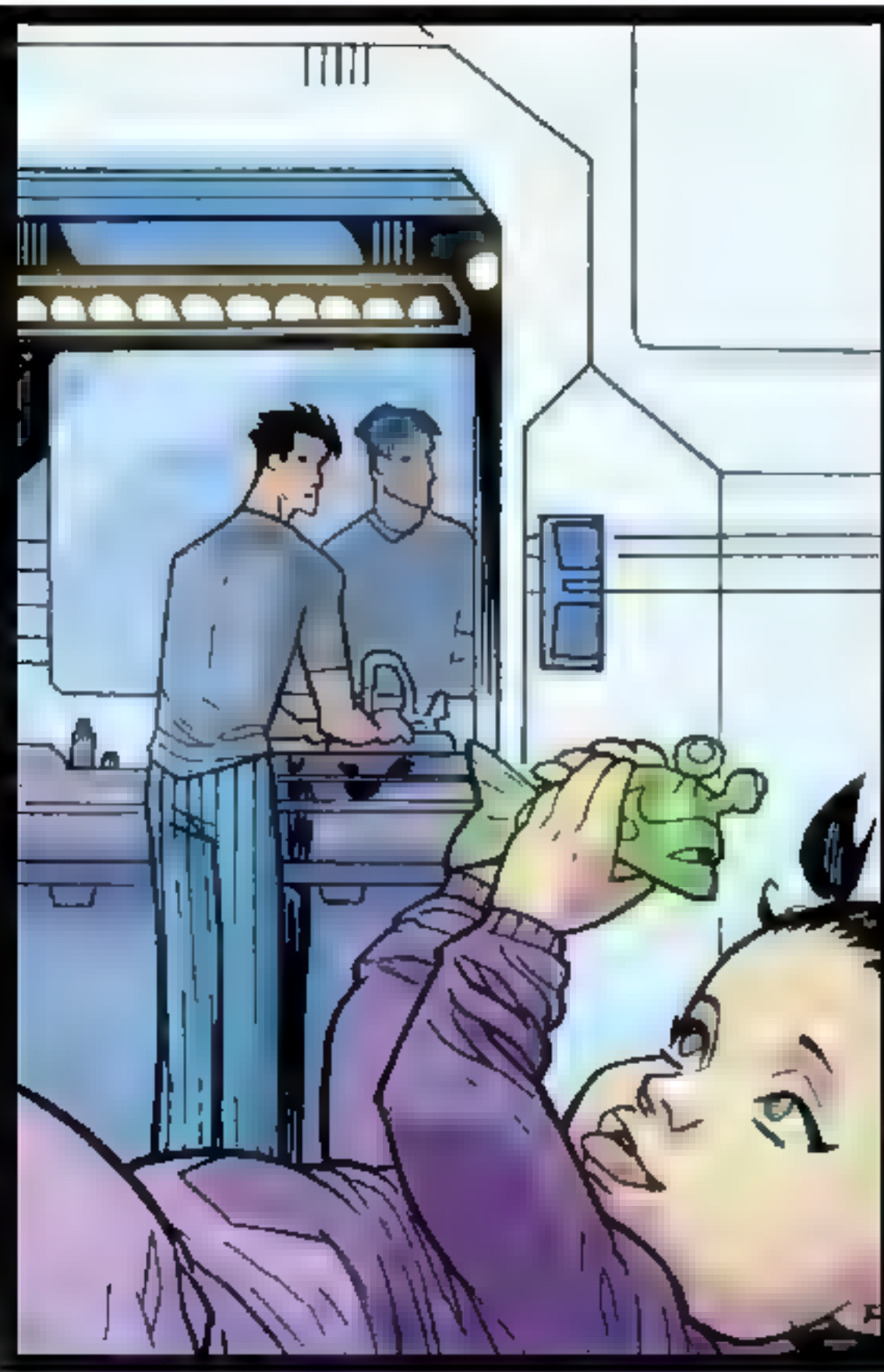


NO.

I WANT TO TRY.







YOU KNOW... I WAS SO TERRIFIED WHEN I FOUND OUT YOUR MOTHER WAS PREGNANT.

COMPLETELY. TERRIFIED.

MY DAD TOLD ME TO GET USED TO IT. SAID I'D BE TERRIFIED EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON. AND BOY... WHEN WE HAD TO TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL... HE WAS RIGHT.

THAT ALMOST KILLED ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT HE DIDN'T TELL ME?

HOW HAPPY YOU'D MAKE ME.

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY THE BEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO ME.

I MEAN, LOOK AT YOU.

I KNOW IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE MONTHS, BUT I ALREADY HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG.

EVERYTHING IS SO... DIFFERENT NOW.

WHUMP!

OKAY... NOT QUITE THE EXPERT "SITTER" JUST YET.

I DON'T JUDGE.

THERE. MUCH BETTER.

I'M GOING TO MAKE A PROMISE TO YOU RIGHT NOW, TERRA.

AND I'M GOING TO KEEP IT. I SWEAR I WILL.

I WILL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.

I'M NOT GOING TO GET KILLED. I'M NOT GOING TO GET LOST IN ANOTHER DIMENSION. I'M NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR.

I'M GOING TO BE CAREFUL... OH, SO CAREFUL. FOR YOU... AND YOUR MOMMY... BUT MOSTLY YOU, IF I'M HONEST.

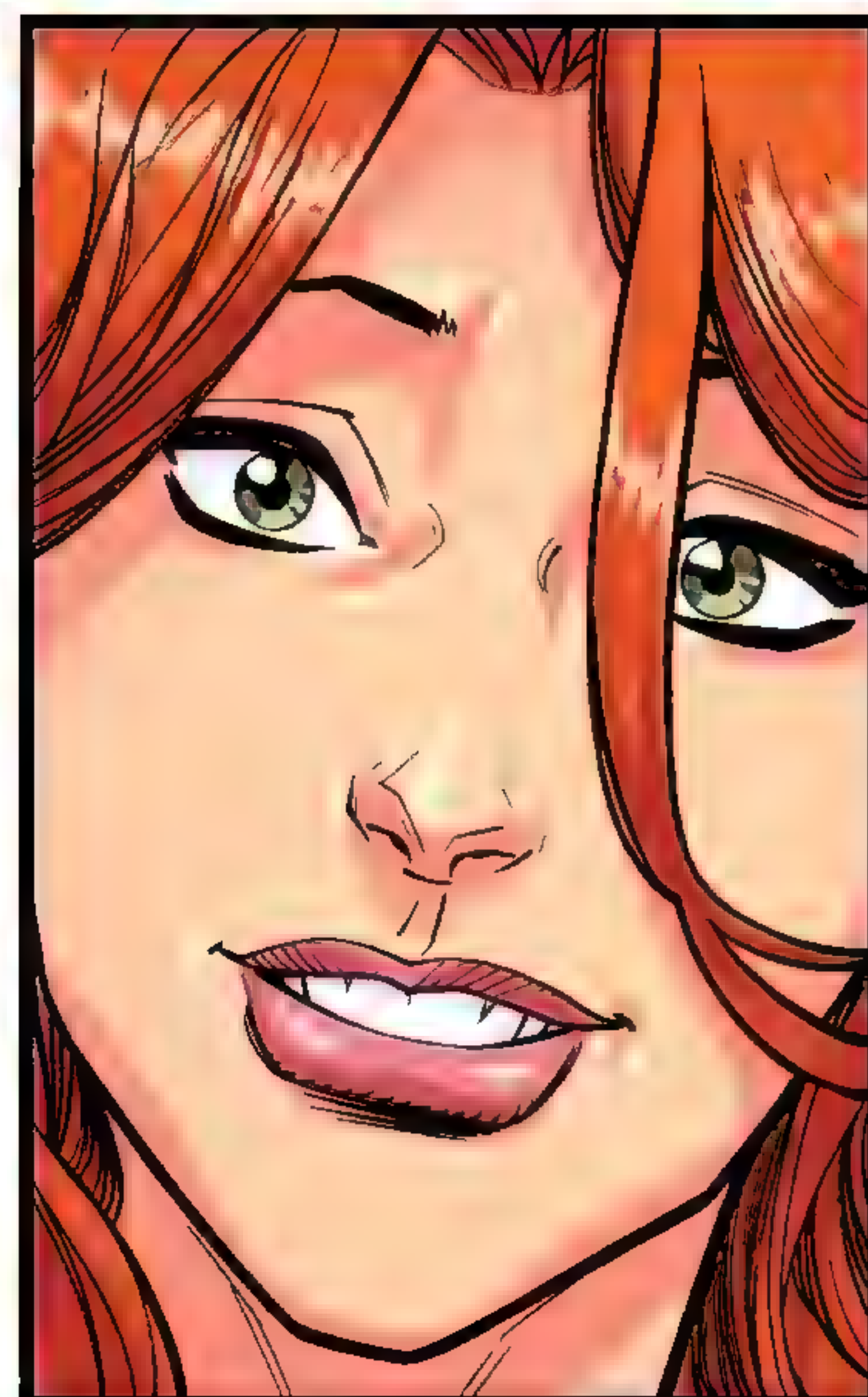
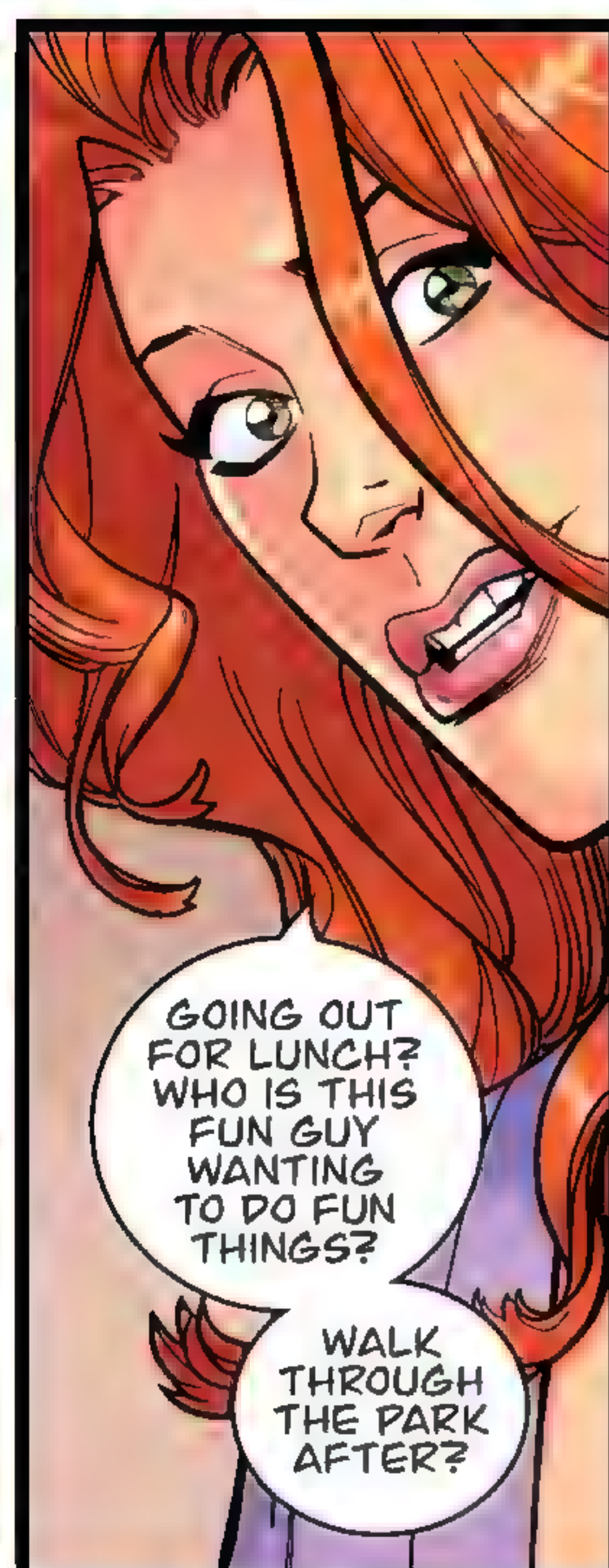
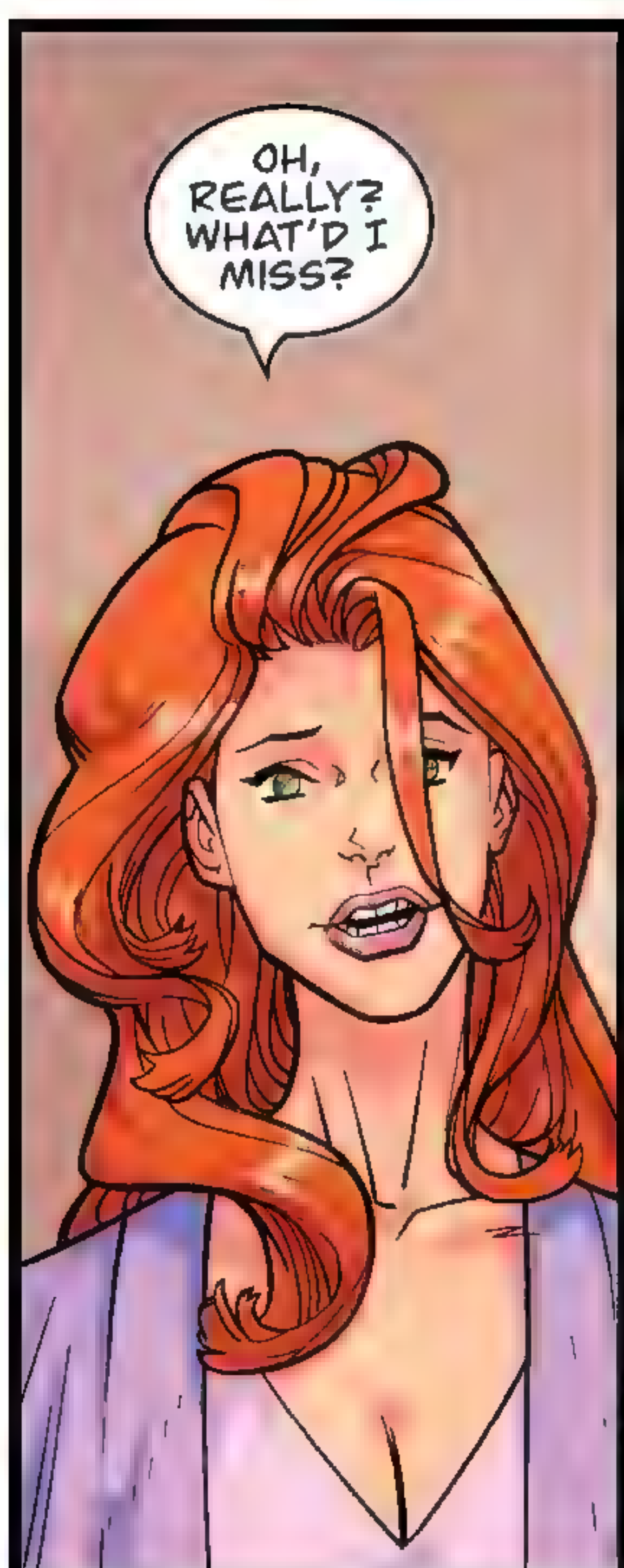
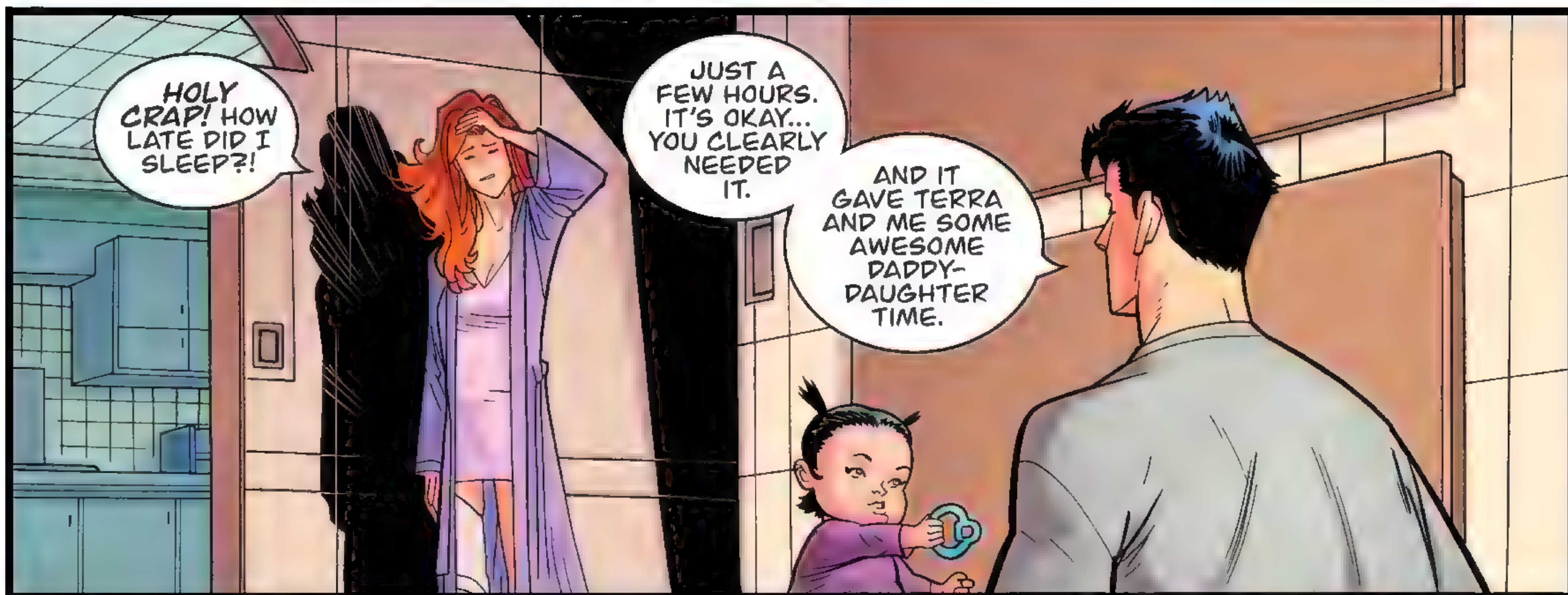
IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE, WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO TALK... I'LL BE THERE.

AND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, IF YOU COME HOME DRUNK OR WRECK OUR SPACESHIP... OR FLYING CAR OR WHATEVER... I'LL SCOLD THE HELL OUT OF YOU, THAT'S MY JOB.

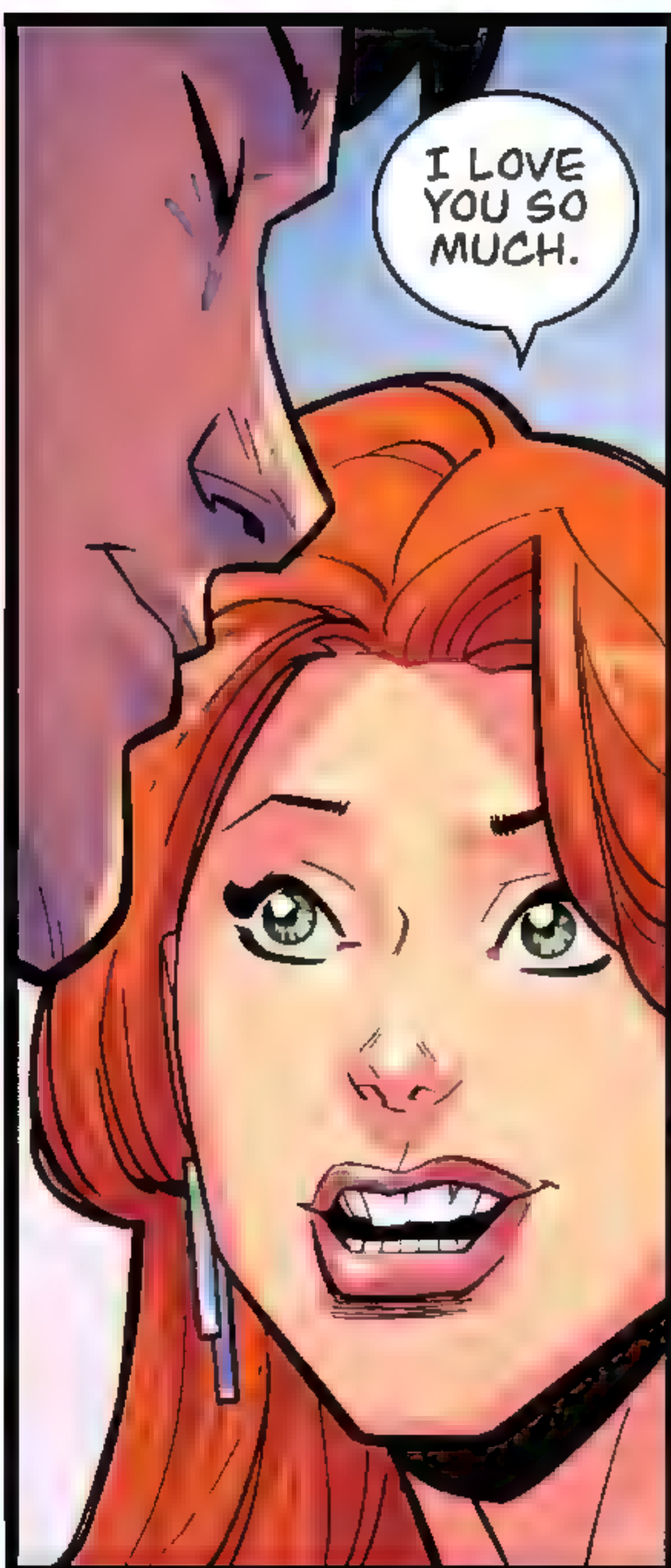
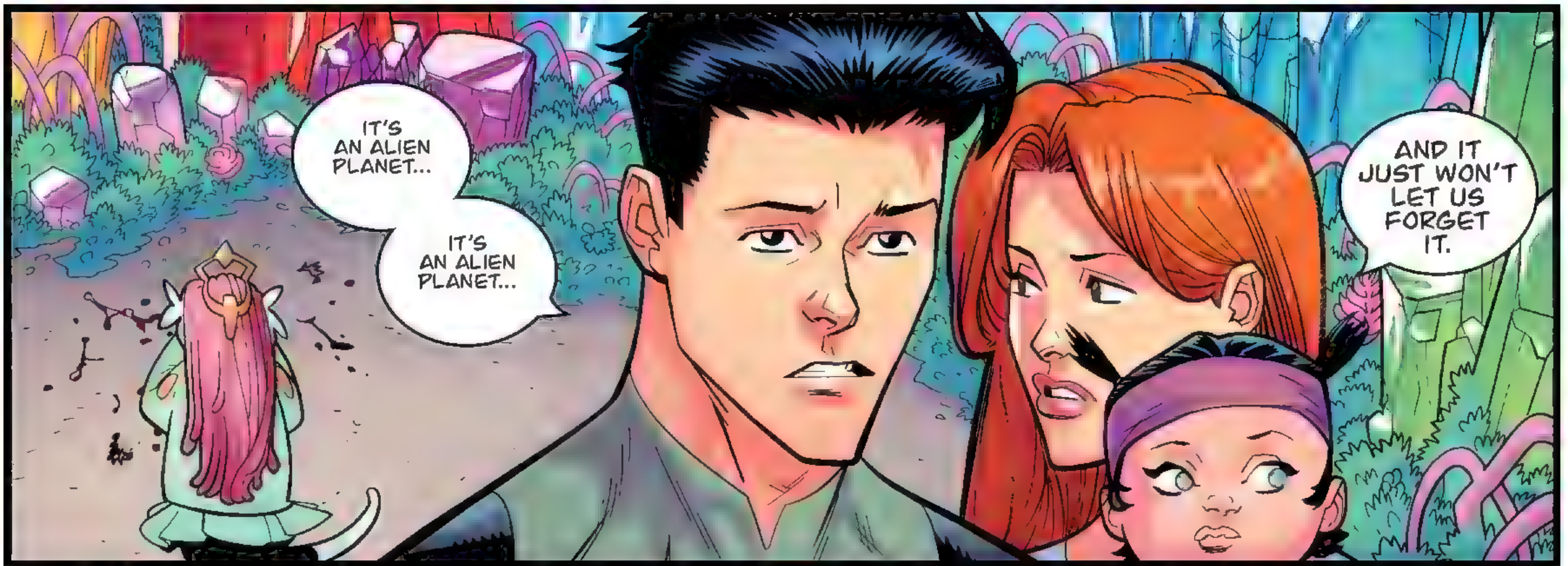
BUT DEEP DOWN... I'LL JUST BE HAPPY YOU'RE OKAY.

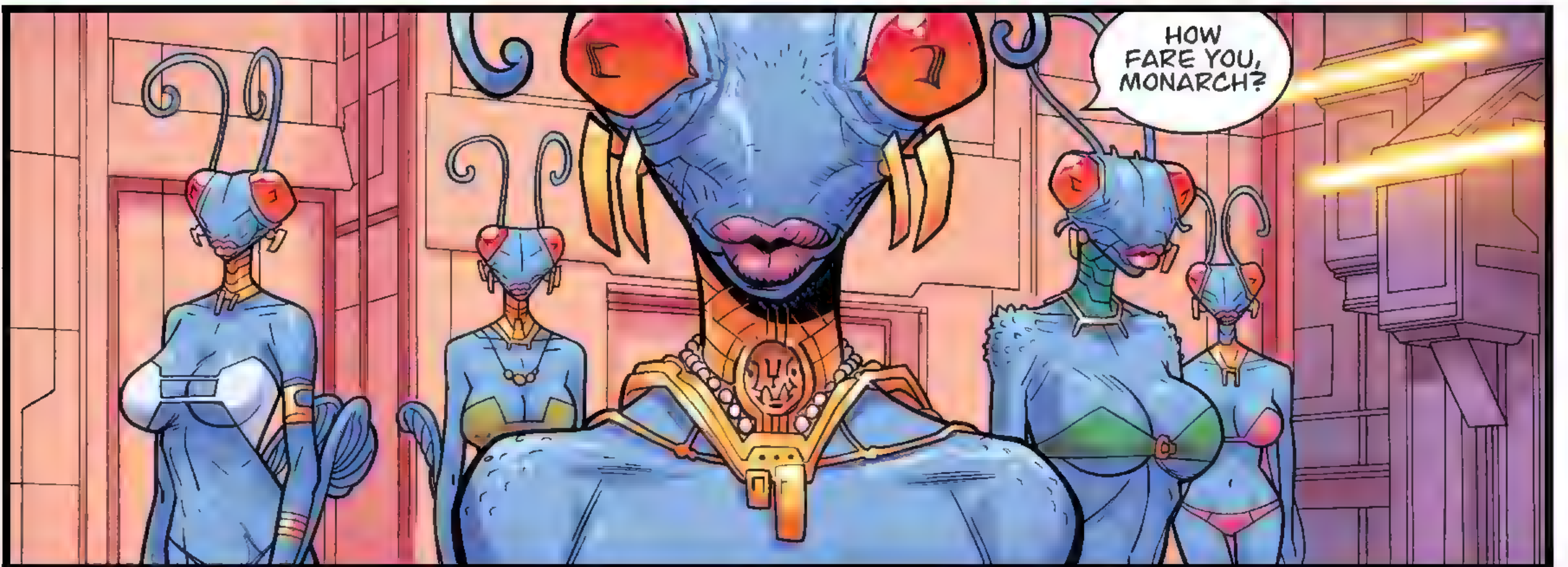
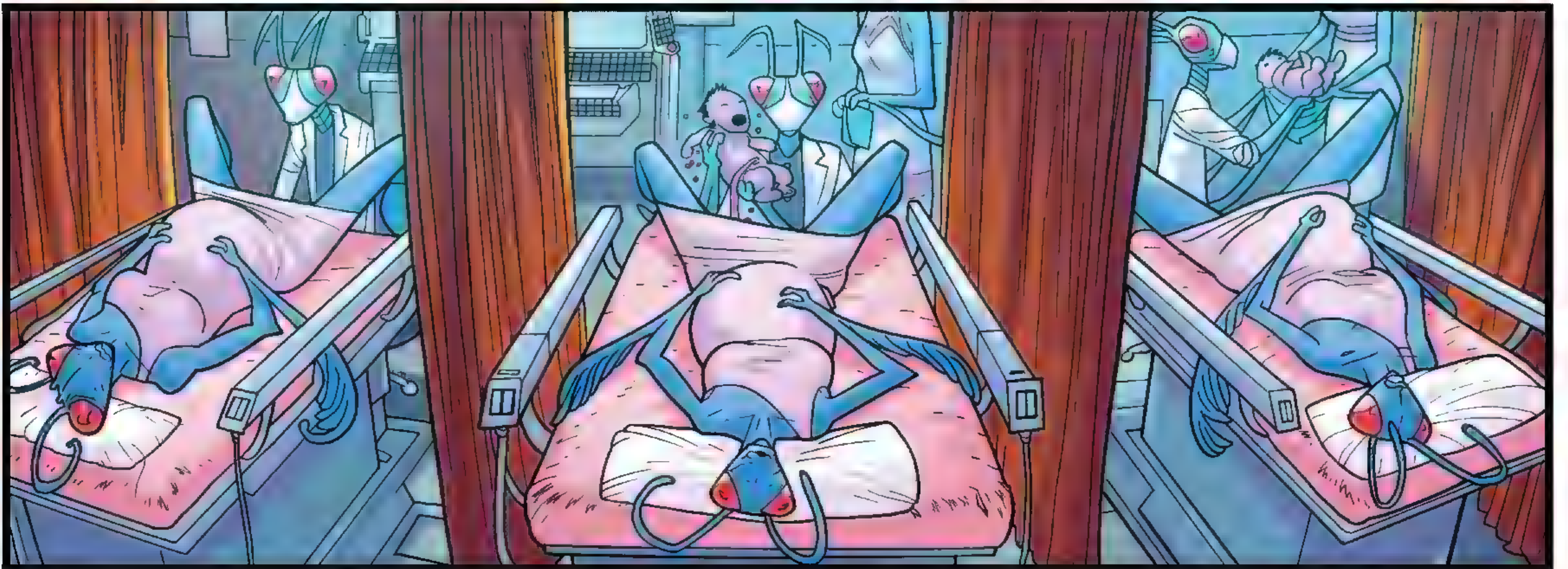
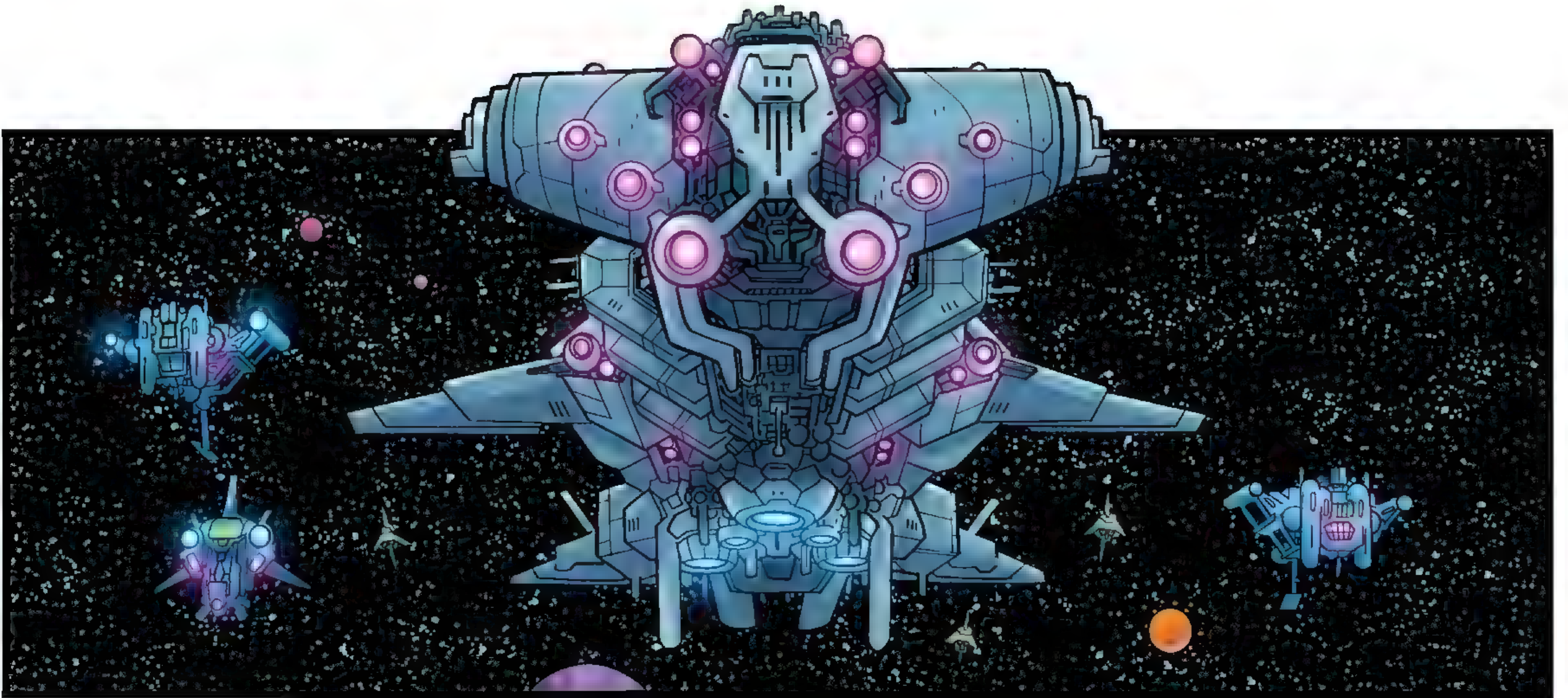
DON'T EVER THROW UP ON MY BACK AGAIN. THAT WAS HORRIBLE.

AND ALL I ASK IN RETURN...









MY
HEALTH
IS...

...IMPROVING.





SKETCHBOOK

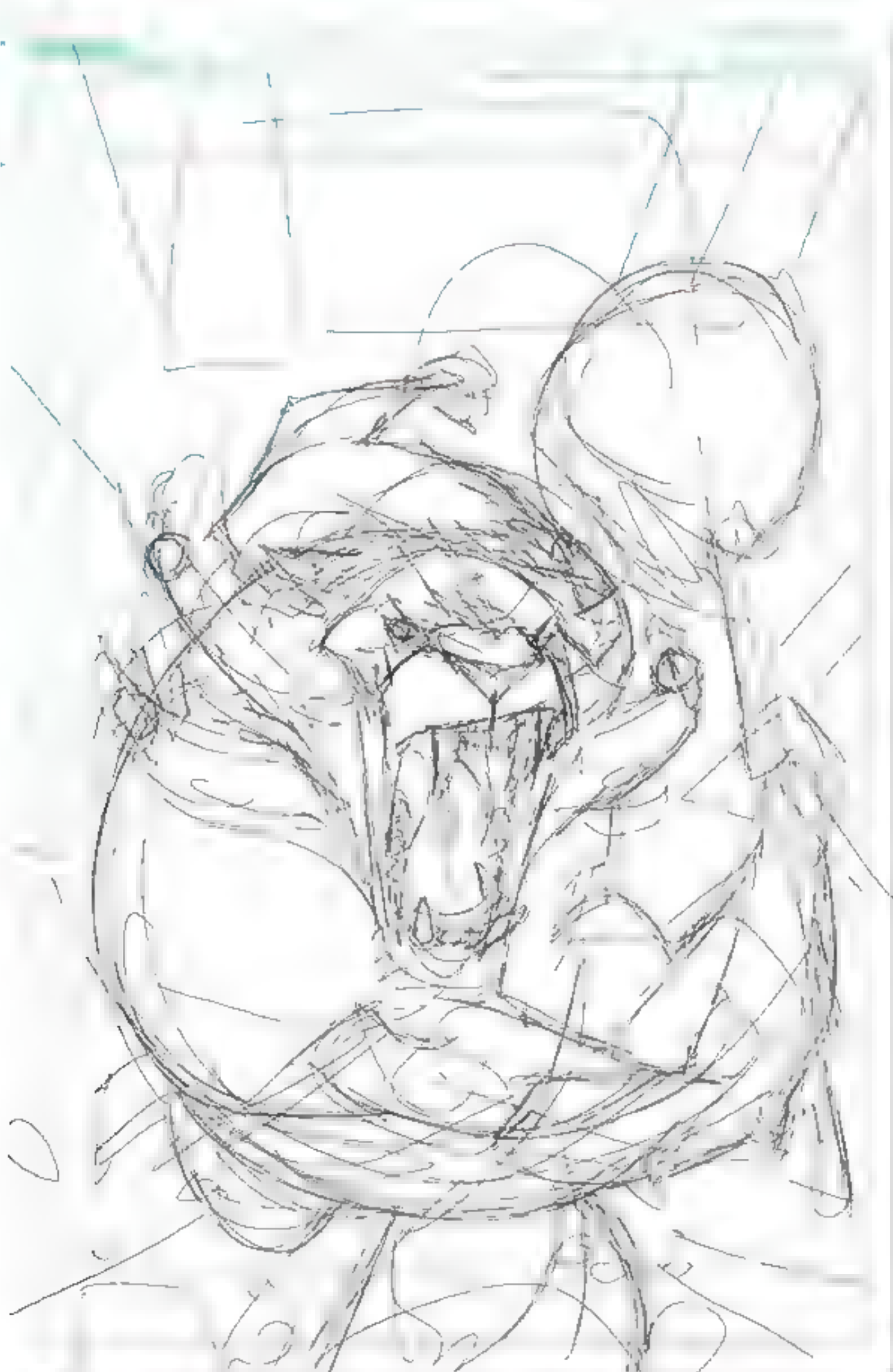
RYAN OTTLEY: Welcome to the wonderful world of *INVINCIBLE* sketchbook section area place zone! Thanks for stopping by! And thanks for reading this far! 120 issues?! 21 trade paperbacks?! 10 hardcovers?! I mean come on, that takes commitment. Thanks from the deepest area place zone of my heart.

ROBERT KIRKMAN: And the darkest area place zone of mine.

RYAN: So about this cover here, I got paper, pencils, and ink, and totally drew this drawing. Yep. Ain't no thang.

ROBERT: Ryan makes it sound easy but it's a little known fact that drawing the cover of an *INVINCIBLE* collection is the equivalent of building three brick houses by hand. Big houses, not those little things poor people live in, either.





RYAN: Battle Beast. I remember when he was born. Robert asked me to design some villains for Machine Head's gang for *INVINCIBLE* # 19, and one of them was Battle Beast! He asked for a lion dude from a different dimension. Give him some Jack Kirby armor or something, he said. Not sure if I succeeded with the Jack Kirby armor part, but I got the lion head part right! He's evolved a little over time. Basically I try to make him more badass every time I draw him. Love this guy.

ROBERT: Yeah, Battle Beast is one of those fun characters that I really didn't have a plan for whose role evolved over time into what it was. Linking him up with the Coalition of Planets and the Viltrumite War and all that cosmic stuff definitely wasn't part of the plan from Day One. I love that guy. I hope we never kill him off.

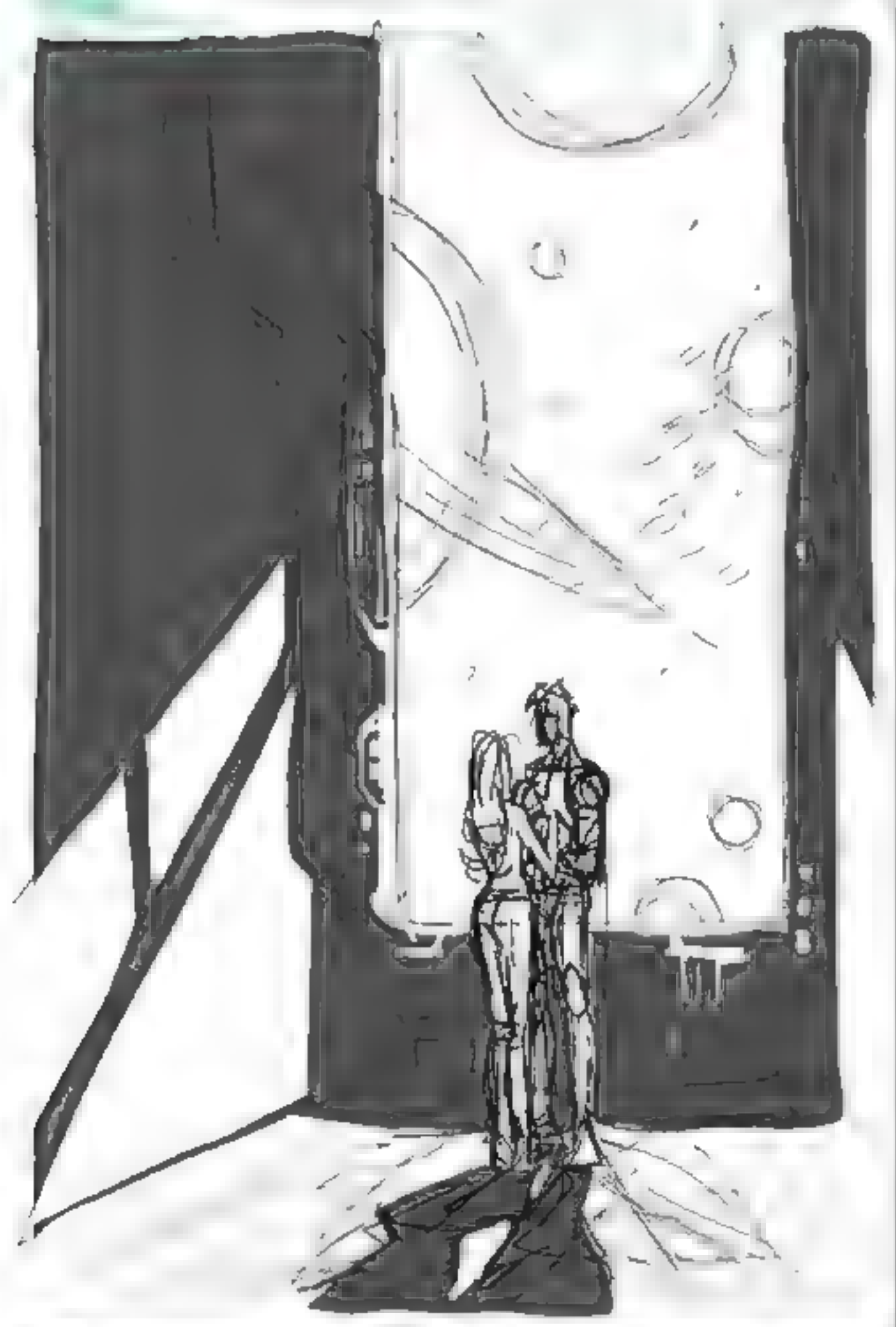
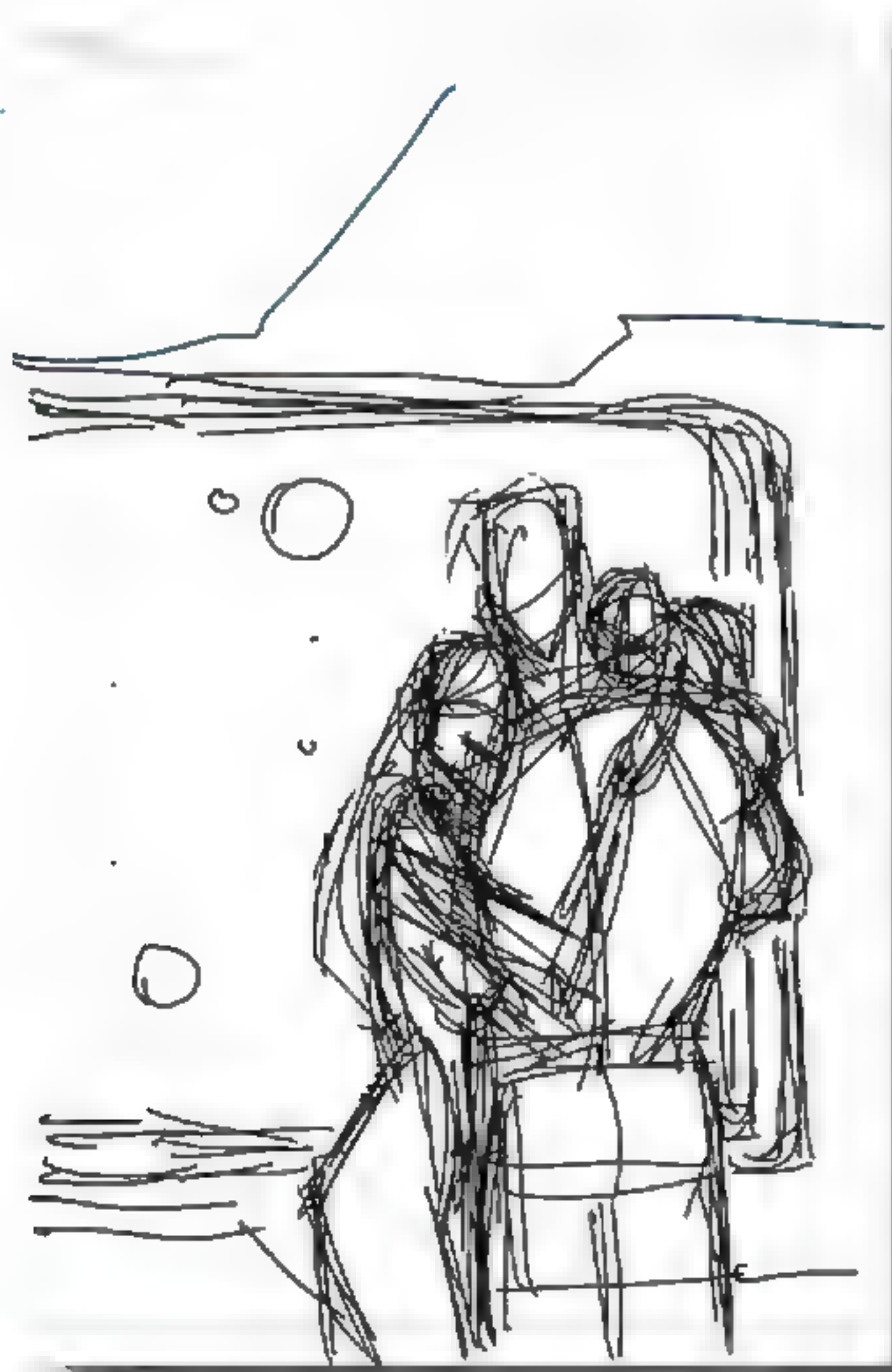




RYAN: *One of the most boring covers I've ever drawn. Can't all be fun! I fought Robert on this idea, but he wouldn't have it. Can't always draw whatever I want!*

ROBERT: I feel like there was a graphic, artsy way to make this cover cool... but you just fell short. Punk.





RYAN: Nice serene shot of a happy family flying into space! And then there's Mark's butt shot. So I changed up the composition a bit. Now it's an Eve butt shot.

ROBERT: Dude butt would have been more unique. We need to do more racy stuff with Mark. Noted.



RYAN: *Some people didn't like this baby's face. Those people need to look at babies more often. I added the kanslok in a container. Maybe the baby is too young for kanslok and this is Mark's snacks? They must be yummy. These poor little creatures. Kanslok might be my favorite thing I've designed for INVINCIBLE! (Sorry, Battle Beast!)*

ROBERT: *They're definitely my favorite thing. I want to do a whole issue about kanslok. Noted.*



RYAN: Robert called me and told me about what he wants for this cover. He said he wanted Mark and Eve in an emergency room, and their daughter is sick. I thought he was kidding. I thought it was another 116 cover! BORING! But then he told me it was on the alien planet with aliens and stuff. Then I was like, "Oh yeah, that sounds cool, I can do that. Ain't no thang."

ROBERT: And I have to hand it to you, this is one of my favorite covers. It's so dense and the character work with all the aliens is stunning. And Jean did an amazing job on the colors. Really great stuff.



RYAN: Oh, Thragg. Ouch. So I was drawing this and thought, "Hey, what if his eye was popped?! I've never drawn that before!" And so I drew that. It's been very effective in grossing people the hell out. Many have asked if I looked that up, like if an eye really does that when it's cut. Even thinking about that grosses me the hell out! But drawing it is fine. For some weird reason.

ROBERT: So... did you look it up or not?! You didn't answer!



image

COMICS

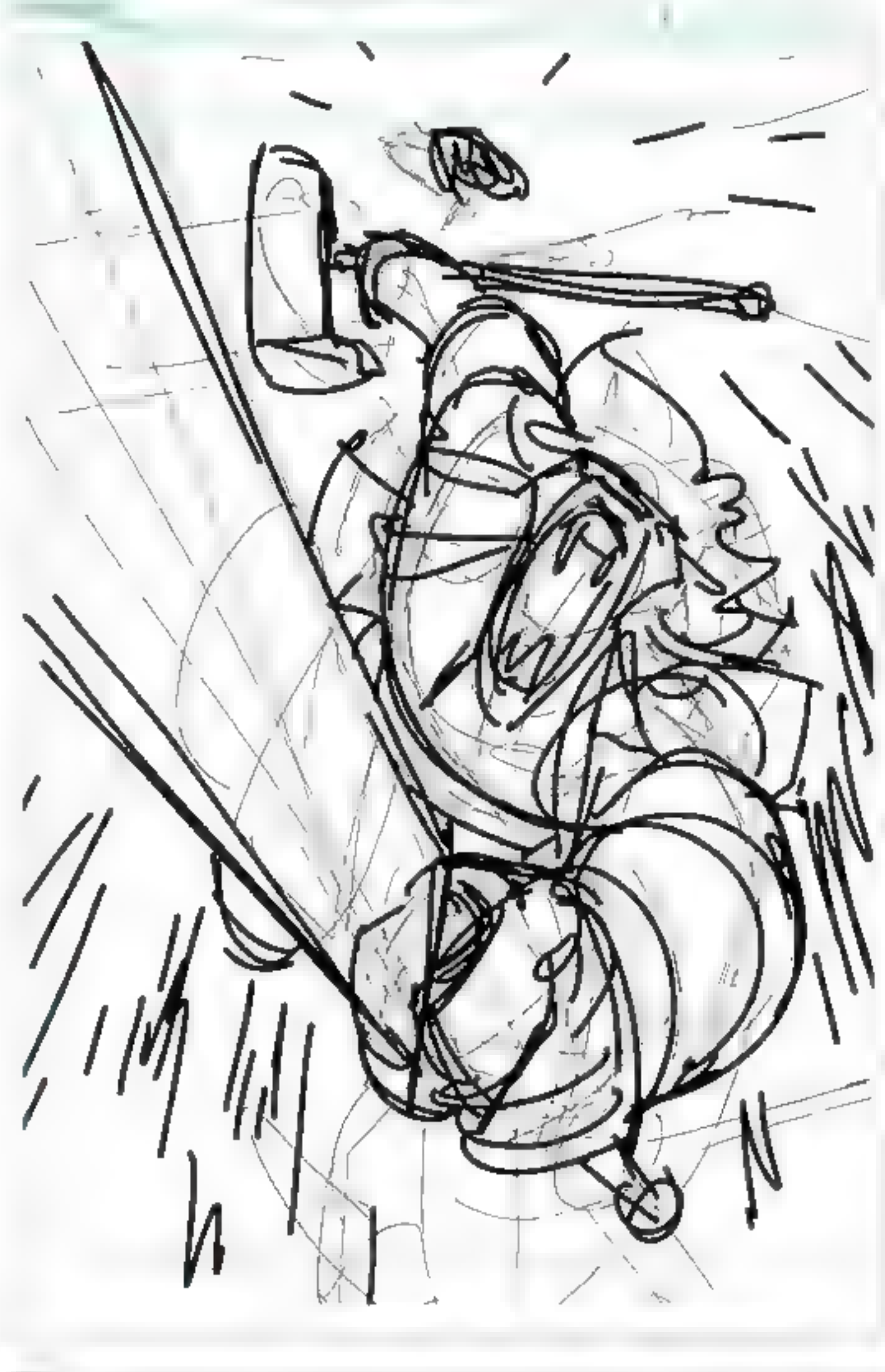
BOOK INVINCIBLE

ILLUSTRATED QUALITY PAPER FULL BLEED COMIC PAGES

ISSUE # 115

PAGE 2

ARTIST: R. OTTLEY



RYAN: Man this issue was fun.

ROBERT: I agree.



RYAN: *Way fun.*

ROBERT: Glad you dug it.



RYAN: *More fun.*

ROBERT: I get it okay...sheesh.





RYAN: *Ugh! I can't handle the fuuuuun!*

ROBERT: I had to make up for the cover to 116.





RYAN: So this panel is how the issue ends, poor Eve found her daughter presumably dead. In the script Robert said to make the baby look dead. He didn't like this for some reason and made me re-do it. I don't know why.

ROBERT: No comment.

RYAN: BOOM! BATTLE BEAST VS. THRAGG! I've drawn this kind of composition a few times; you might remember the Conquest vs. Invincible splash page, or the Invincible vs. Powerplex cover. I just really like seeing the energy of two forces right before they explode! More like this as soon as I get the chance for it!

ROBERT: You're in a rut! Hey, stick to what works. I've been writing the same four comics for 15 years at this point.





RYAN: I....I don't wanna talk about it. R.I.P. B.B.

ROBERT: Yeah... that one was really rough on me, too.



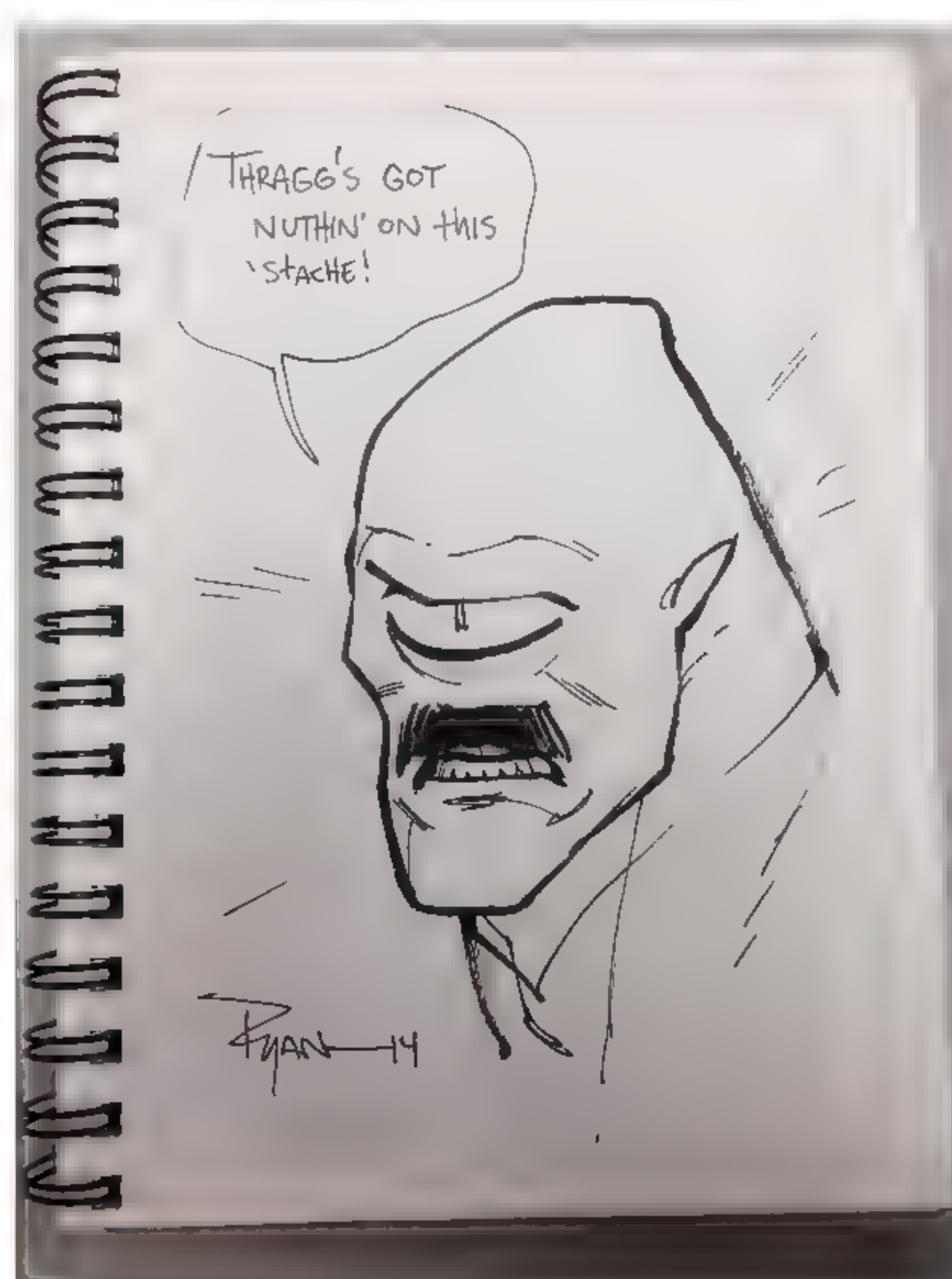
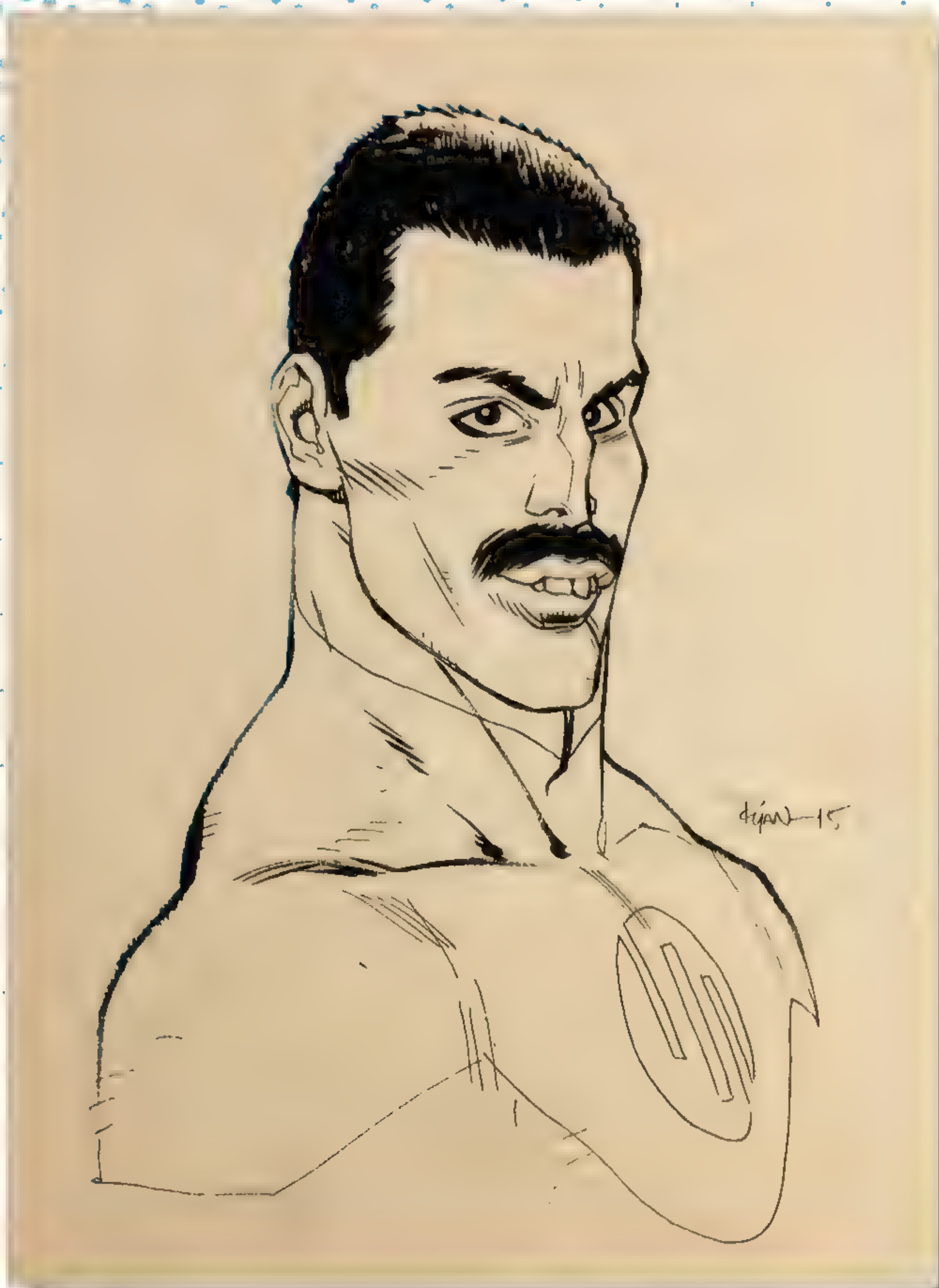


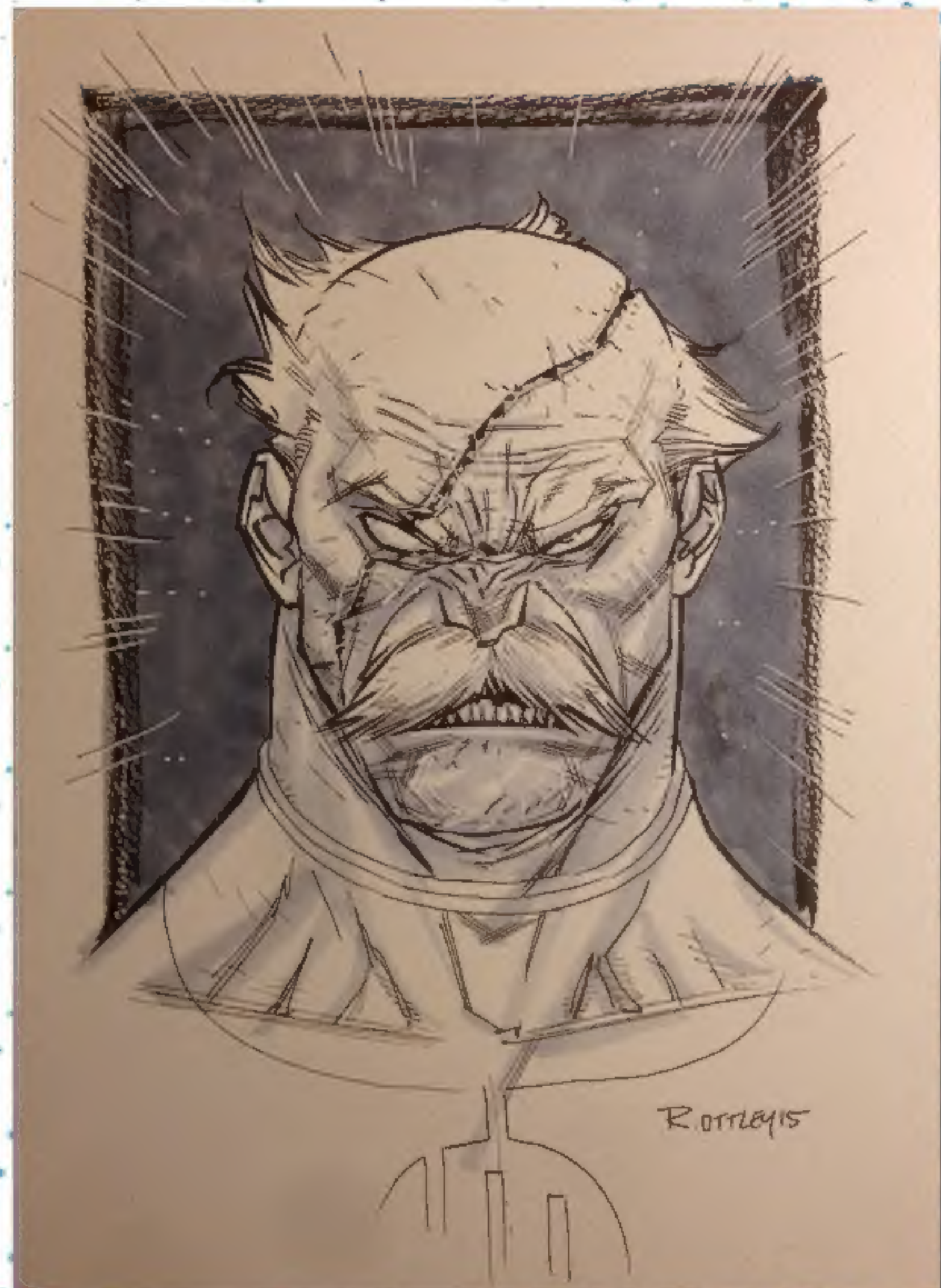
ROBERT: The design for Haluma was inspired. I wanted her to look like a monstrous bug thing and you really delivered. She's so sexy.



RYAN: Here's some commissions for you. First up is what I think Lord Argall looked like. The rest is a few con sketches I've done recently. Thanks for reading the wonderful world of **INVINCIBLE** sketchbook section area place zone! Until next time! See ya!

ROBERT: Later!







SUPERHERO

Invincible and Atom Eve set off on the adventure of a lifetime: PARENTHOOD! They've taken to the stars and left their troubles on Earth behind them. As things take a drastic turn for our heroes, you'll find yourself asking... is this book still about superheroes?

This volume collects issues 115-120 of the Eisner-nominated series.

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